

THE GATEWAY

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*Our annual romp
in the world's greatest
hedonistic delights ...*

THE PURITY TEST

❧ PAGE XV ❧



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colophon

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contributors

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Student funding takes hit in provincial budget

ALEXANDRIA ELDRIDGE
News Staff

The provincial budget released on Tuesday contains \$54 million cut from scholarships and grants, which could create even greater debt loads on postsecondary students.

The Council for Alberta University Students met with the Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology on February 10 to ask questions about the budget. CAUS is chaired by the U of A Students' Union Vice President (External) Beverly Eastham.

Alberta Liberal leader David Swann suspects that this budget will not be well received by the public.

"I see very little that Albertans will be satisfied with. I don't see any indication that they've done their homework on efficiencies. We think they should be slowing down the capital expenditures," Swann said.

The total amount allocated for the Advanced Education and Technology portfolio is \$3.23 billion, a cut of 6 per cent from this year's forecast amount of \$3.43 billion. Of the funding taken from scholarships and grants, \$206 million was allocated to the loan program, up 23 per cent from last year.

Eastham said this shift in funding is not something that will help students.

"The major thing that we've seen for students is the shift from grants to loans," she said. "Initially, I don't think that anyone's too excited about more loans and less grants because obviously it means more debt for students."

The government also increased the lifetime student loan limit. Eastham



CYRIL BALITBIT

STAREDOWN CAUS chair Beverly Eastham speaks with Minister of Advanced Education and Technology Doug Horner.

said that although this is something that students have asked for in the past, it's not entirely a positive change.

"Students in Medicine, Dentistry, and Law are the three groups that sometimes surpass the amount of lifetime loan limit and so that's been increased for them, which in some ways is good because that means they'll be able to apply for loan funding to get through their education. But on the backside, it means that they'll be leaving with more debt," Eastham said.

Other changes were also made to the provincial loan program. The loan relief benefit grant, which used to be given to first-year students who had

taken out a loan, has been changed so that students aren't eligible until they complete their program. The loan remission program has been maintained but it doesn't help students who drop out during their program.

"That's one of our biggest criticisms of the remission program. So getting rid of the loan relief benefit grant [...] in the short-term has some impact on students right now," Eastham said.

The market modifier proposals, which could lead to increased tuition for professional programs, have been submitted to the government by U of A and the University of Calgary. These proposals were not addressed

in the budget. According to Eastham, they can expect the Minister's response within three weeks.

CAUS also expressed concerns to the Ministry about the use of non-instructional mandatory fees, such as the \$550 fee that U of A students may see implemented next year.

"It's not something that institutions had really been looking to before because they were getting enough money from the government, but now with the economic situation being what it is and the base operating grants being lower, they are starting to see this as one area where there isn't any regulation," Eastham said.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Nick Frost and Aaron Yeo

As you may or may not be aware, Valentine's Day is this Sunday, and I'm very much single.

Would you like to go on a date with me this Valentine's Day?

**Breanne Parker**
Arts II**Alli Ritter**
Phys. Ed. III**Dana Nielsen**
ALES II**Stephanie Esak**
Arts II

I would love to, but I'm going to be in Calgary, so ... next time!

If I didn't have a boyfriend. [*Cool, so then what do you have planned for Valentine's Day?*] I don't know, actually. My boyfriend said he has it all planned out, so we'll see what happens.

I will be in Guatemala with Habitat for Humanity.

Funny story: I texted my boyfriend this morning and he didn't text back, so I texted him "What? No love?" and he said "None." I'm gonna text him back and say, "Someone just asked me out!" [*I just wanna tell you how much I love you right now*] Well someone should! [*You know, if you're single after all this, here's my number.*] [Stephanie types Nick's number in her phone].

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Tuition advocacy campaign debuts

SU President argues possible \$550 non-instructional fee is like “poison”

JONATHAN TAVES
Deputy News Editor

Spurred by a possible \$550 per year mandatory fee and unprecedented tuition hikes, the Students’ Union has launched a campaign to inform and mobilize students against those financial burdens.

University of Alberta officials are proposing implementation of the increases in tuition and fees in an effort to offset a \$59-million deficit in next year’s operating budget.

The SU solicited ideas from their campaign, entitled “Mind the Gap,” at a town-hall style meeting last Friday.

“We don’t think students should be paying these increases in the first place because it’s not a failing of students that has brought this [deficit] forward,” SU President Zach Fentiman said.

Posters and mock price tags are being distributed this week to make students aware and to encourage them to tell University and government officials about the impact the increased financial stress will have on them personally. The campaign’s website, uofafees.ca, also launched on Monday.

“We’re heavily encouraging people to visit the website and submit a letter to their MLA, and [the website] submits a copy to the ministry as well,” Fentiman said.

Professional faculties would be subject to the greatest increase, with the biggest jumps in tuition facing incoming students, and grandparented rates affecting students who are continuing in their programs. These changes would likely be permanent.

A 2006 provincial agreement tied tuition to the Consumer Price Index, and the new differential tuition rates would break that if they’re approved by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology.



DAN MCKECHNIE

MAN WITH A PLAN Fentiman hopes a united front can ease financial woes.

“As it stands right now, differential tuition and the market modifier proposal has to go through the ministry, it has to be regulated,” Fentiman said. “What we were trying to get accomplished with the 2006 tuition fees regulation is a sustainable, predictable level of tuition.”

The non-instructional, Common Student Space, Sustainability and Security Fee, is a proposal that will need to be approved by the Board of Governors on March 26. The amount is yet to be finalized, but is capped at \$550, which would be the largest jump in tuition since 1993.

It would be imposed on every student next year, with part-time students paying half that amount.

“That fee in particular is not a very good policy decision on the part of the university. It’s strictly a stop-gap measure, a cash-grab,” Fentiman said.

This measure is expected to be rescinded once the gap is closed, but Fentiman isn’t confident on that point.

“The University [could] use this as a crutch,” he said. “We’re not seeing

commitment that this is a short-term solution.”

“It’s a way for the University to go around the tuition fees regulation and charge whatever they want, because the Board of Governors at the U of A has the full capacity to charge non-instructional fees. It’s only in guidelines that they keep fees as low as possible, but they don’t have to obey,” Fentiman added.

The administration has promised more financial aid to lessen the costs’ impact.

“The grandparenting and the financial aid commitments and all that stuff, all that’s doing is making the poison taste better, but it’s still poison,” Fentiman argued.

Despite the University’s evident reliance on the fee and market modifiers to cover their deficit, Fentiman believes the campaign could still make a difference.

“It’s definitely something that we’re hoping does deliver, and gets students thinking about what the University and government should be doing, and sends a message to those bodies.”

Olympic curlers rock digital training

ALEXANDRIA ELDRIDGE
CUP Alberta and Northern Bureau Chief

The University of Alberta has done its part to boost Team Canada’s showing at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

Researchers at both the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary developed new training methods for athletes competing in skiing, luge, speed skating, and curling with the help of funding from the Own the Podium initiative.

Own the Podium has invested \$117 million over the past five years with the goal of helping Team Canada receive the most medals at the Olympics and Paralympics.

About \$8 million was invested into

the Top Secret program, which program manager Todd Allinger described as being focused on research.

“The Top Secret component is designed to make sure we have world class equipment, technology, and training methods,” he said. “It includes 17 universities and institutions across Canada, and about 150 researchers across Canada.”

At the U of A’s Saville Sports Centre, curling manager Rob Krepps and Phys. Ed. faculty lecturer Pierre Baudin worked on the biomechanical analysis of curling stone delivery for both curling and wheelchair curling.

“One of the things we found is that Canadian curlers are very good curlers and that they’re, for the most part, very

close to having biomechanically sound curling deliveries,” Baudin said.

The researchers worked individually with both men’s and women’s Olympic and Paralympic teams.

Baudin said that the research on wheelchair curling was significant because it had not been explored before.

“Probably the biggest impact we had was on the wheelchair curlers. Nobody had ever done research on wheelchair curlers before, and so we were starting from scratch there and a lot of the things they were doing were biomechanically incorrect [...] we changed a number of things for all the curlers.”

For the able-bodied curlers, Baudin said that changes will be more subtle but still significant.

“For the able-bodied delivery, it was cleaning up little problems with the curlers and straightening them out. There were some more significant adjustments we made, some of which we still can’t talk about yet,” he said.

Baudin believes that even if their findings were not earth shattering, the work will still help the athletes at the Games.

“I believe we did have an impact on the curlers. I think, if nothing else, the curlers feel that they’ve done everything they can do to prepare themselves,” Baudin said. “Confidence is a huge factor for athletes performing in these types of major international competitions.”



SAM BROOKS

STRAIGHT SHOOTER Baudin has used close scrutiny of curling stone delivery to improve the shooting accuracy of both able-bodied and wheelchair curlers.

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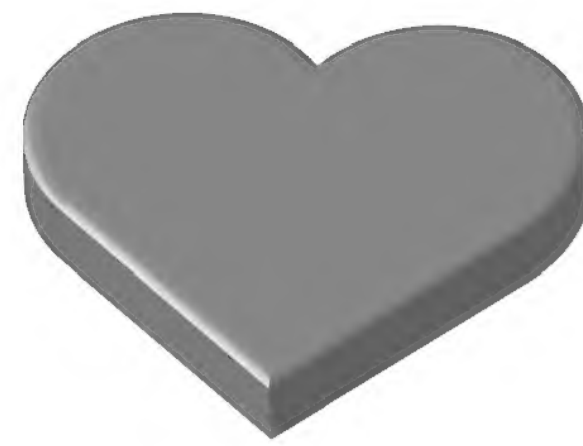
Dewey's is available for private bookings in March.

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U of A shatters Guinness world dodgeball record



THIS ONE'S MINE Some of the 1,200 participants of Friday's massive dodgeball game rush to the line to arm up with some of the 600 balls being tossed.

SEAN STEELS
Senior News Editor

The University of Alberta made its mark on athletic history last Friday as 1,200 students, faculty, and staff packed the Butterdome and shattered a Guinness record with the world's biggest dodgeball game.

"We wanted to do something special this year, and really blow the record out of the water," Seamus Galliban, an event volunteer said from between a sea of two opposing teams donned in the University's official colours — green and gold.

The event was, according to Students' Union Vice President (Student Life) Nick Dehod, a true cross-campus event, encompassing the Dean of Students Office, the Alumni Association,

Residence Hall Association, Lister Dodgeball League, the Lister Hall Students' Association, and the biggest dodgeball court ever seen courtesy of the Faculty of Phys. Ed. and Recreation.

"It takes a huge amount of time to create an event like this, and it takes a lot of people getting involved," Dehod said, adding that the event timing, as well, had necessitated a huge commitment from volunteers, especially during the registration process.

The event occurred in two parts: a registration component beginning at 11 a.m., and the game itself at noon. As Dehod explained, organizers were not too concerned about students' ability to play dodgeball.

"We wanted to sort of do something that would bring a larger campus community together, and dodgeball is a very accessible sport.

There's a throwing component and a dodging component, and [for] the average student, that's something they can really get involved with," he said. Completing registration, even with approximately 75 volunteers helping, was a difficult task, he continued.

"One of the parts that we were most worried about was the registration component. We had to get 1,200 people in an hour. Out of all the things we worked on, that was the one that we tried really hard in the last couple of weeks to make sure we got right."

The University's game shattered the previous record of 450 players by the San Diego State University, and will become official once Guinness has tabulated participants' registration material.

And for the record, the gold team won.

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Sean Steels

BAD PLACE TO RAISE A LITTLE HELL

Sometime between February 5 and February 8, unknown persons broke into an office in St. Joseph's College and discharged a fire extinguisher before using it to smash a vending machine in the area.

LIGHT IT UP

In the early morning of February 6, a report was received of evidence of two small fires being lit in a bathroom and laundry room within Lister Center. Minor damage was observed in both areas where the fires were lit. Video footage was pulled from the building's camera system, and it is believed the perpetrator is a resident of Lister Center.

YOU MUST NEED A LIFT

Shortly after 10 p.m. on February 6, a University Watch member located an intoxicated, non-affiliated male in HUB Mall. The male had a previous history with Campus Security, and was issued a summons for public intoxication. He was transported off campus to a shelter for the night.

STUDENT DISTRESS

Around 2 a.m. on February 7 a student reported a female lying in the road by International House expressing the need to be hit by a car. CSS located the female who appeared to be under the influence of alcohol and was also in psychological distress. She was placed in the back of a CSS unit where she began to try and injure herself. When officers tried to restrain the woman she assaulted one of them. She was eventually taken to a hospital for psychiatric assessment.

NO MATTER THE PRICE

Just after 11 p.m. on February 8, Aramark staff at Lister Centre reported they were detaining a male student who they believed had stolen a drink. Campus 5-0 attended and the student forked over \$2.75 without further incident.

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Undergraduate research on horizon



SIMON YACKULIC

HANDS-ON APPROACH More undergraduates may soon be donning lab coats and a scrutinizing eye to do research.

SIMON YACKULIC
News Staff

If a current collaboration between members of the Students' Union and University of Alberta staff is successful, an Office of Undergraduate Research may soon become ingrained within the University's academic culture.

Students' Union Vice President (Academic) Leah Trueblood explained that the Students' Union is working with the University on this initiative with the intention of putting the U of A's research-heavy focus to work for undergraduates as well.

"If a student gets all the disadvantages of a research intensive university — big classes, sometimes a bit of impersonality — we want to make real sure that they're coming out with a set of skills and experiences that just push them really far ahead," Trueblood said. "We want to ensure that students leave really competitive. We want to take all of that research muscle and make it work for all of our students."

As currently envisioned, the Office of Undergraduate Research could look like a clearing house for undergraduate research, primarily connecting students with research opportunities. More broadly, the Office could work with the libraries to coordinate the publication of undergraduate research

journals; it could also offer workshops and support for students who need help with speaking and presenting papers at national conferences.

To move from this vision to creating an actual office, Trueblood explained that the initiative would need to "stand the test of the [University's] Academic Plan." To get there, Trueblood hopes to make a convincing business case for the initiative's inclusion in the Plan so that the idea can be given budgetary support and brought to fruition.

She cited comparisons with campuses in the United States that have similar offices. Even nearby centres such as the University's Augustana campus may be cause for inspiration, having what Trueblood referred to as a "whole culture [embodying] the student scholarship idea."

One individual collaborating with Trueblood from the University side is Psychology Professor Connie Varnhagen. She explained that the Office would fulfill an integral part of the University's vision of offering its strengths as a research institution to meet the needs of students. She noted that the office could see a gradual roll-out over the coming years before coming to complete fruition.

"I don't think anyone is planning on a grand opening of a physical space with balloons and cookies

in September," Varnhagen said. "I think the website — possibly as CAPS 'Birds of a Feather' initiative — will be up next year but that depends on developing a stable and flexible student database."

The exact format of the organization is still up for discussion.

"I hope that people will come together and eventually there will be a director of some sort and at least one staff member [...] supporting the important initiatives the Office will coordinate and collaborate on," Varnhagen continued.

Trueblood emphasized that she understood that the current budget pain on the administration's end might end up delaying the full implementation of the Office of Undergraduate Research, but she remained confident that eventually creating the Office will improve both academic quality for undergraduates, as well as improve the system's overall efficiency.

"I'm really concerned about the University's budget situation and I think everyone in [University Hall] is, but this isn't about spending money," she said.

"If we can streamline [research support] for instructors — and streamline that for students — I think that we can find efficiencies in the system and improve quality. And that's what we need to be doing right now."

U of A Students' Union fundraising for Haiti

ALEXANDRIA ELDRIDGE
News Staff

The University of Alberta Students' Union is trying to mobilize the student body to help the devastated nation of Haiti.

Every student has been asked to donate \$2, working toward a goal to raise \$60,000.

The SU has set up a Red Cross donation page as a simple way for students to donate. As of February 10, students have donated \$922. The SU will continue to raise money until their goal is reached, or until a year has passed.

SU Vice President (External) Beverly Eastham said that it's important for students to have an awareness of global events.

"As someone who's going to university, part of the whole experience is learning about the world [...] staying in touch with current events and, if possible, finding some way to give back," she said.

Eastham said that the SU chose to

go with the donation page but she is encouraged by the other fundraising efforts being run across campus by other groups.

"We've done the one central donation site just because it's easy and simple for people to donate to, but there's lots of other ways that students can get involved and are getting involved just by themselves."

She also said that hopefully the donation page would remain active in the upcoming months.

"This issue's getting a lot of attention right now, just because it's so recent and there's so much news about it right now," she said.

"But clearly the people of Haiti need help for a much longer period than just the couple of weeks that this going to be the top story."

Students can give to collection boxes located at Infolink booths across campus or by following the link at su.ualberta.ca. The campaign goal's progress can also be tracked at this site.

from the
archives

"Wartime chemistry explained to Philosoph"

February 11, 1944

On Wednesday, Feb 9th, the Philosophical Society heard two most interesting and most important papers, given by Mr. G. W. Govier of the Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta. The lecture, in which Mr. Govier spoke on "Chemical Production in War" and Dr. Morrison on "Social Implications of Chemical Production," was very much appreciated, as several members stated in the following discussion.

Mr. Govier, in speaking on his part of the topic, "Chemical Production in War," defined "Chemical Industries" as those including [...]

From the Archives is a regular feature that explores the storied history of the Gateway, the University of Alberta's student newspaper since 1910. To read the full story and to explore our entire archive, check out thegatewayonline.ca/archives.

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FACT:

During her speech at a recent convention for the 'Tea Party' movement in the United States, Sarah Palin wrote her evidently forgettable talking points of "energy," "tax cuts," and "lift American spirit" on her hand.

FACT:

At, *Gatewaynews* we're so elitist we use tape recorders and notepads to jog our memory.

GATEWAY NEWS

Hohey and changey since 1910

News Meetings Fridays at 3 p.m. in 3-04 SUB
newsies@gateway.ualberta.ca

Experts weigh province's nuclear prospects

Despite the possibility of dramatic pollution reduction, economists still warn that dangers of provincial nuclear development could outweigh any benefits

BRENT PUCHALSKI
News Writer

A number of economists with the Department of Rural Economy and Renewable Resources of the U of A are calling for a new direction in the debate on nuclear energy in Alberta.

They've released a report, *Nuclear Energy in Alberta: What You Need to Know*, and it is their hope to use it to advocate for greater transparency from nuclear institutions and develop a healthy skepticism in the public.

Technical aspects usually can dominate the discussion, with safety, disasters and ecological footprints at the forefront. Little attention has been placed on social factors that form people's conception of nuclear energy and the difference that it makes in interactions with nuclear institutions. The authors argue that this creates a conflict that is ignored by all sides.

"Anything nuclear conjures a significant amount of dread in the public. When asked to rank perceived risks, people ranked nuclear power as one of the greatest risks while experts in the field ranked it considerably lower," he said. Also significant is that increased knowledge about nuclear technology does not decrease concern; in some cases it can even aggravate it. It is common for nuclear proponents to think that overt concern is due to misconceptions about nuclear technology; however it is much deeper than that."

The high perceived risk involved in nuclear power makes it an undesirable energy option and new reactors are rare in North America.

"Experts are trained in certain methodologies for risk assessment, which can be one dimensional and abstract. Lay persons evaluate risk with



DAN MCKECHNIE

AVOIDING A MELTDOWN Albertans can voice their concerns at public forums.

a broader perspective," Davidson said. "You can talk about the probability of an accident and the potential lives lost, but people will consider questions like how those people will die, will it be painful, what will that do to my children and community, what about later generations. These numbers will be given faces."

Growing concern about an even greater perceived risk, unchecked climate change, has resulted in increasing interest in nuclear energy. However, nuclear power is noted for having little to no carbon emissions and can provide the baseline power that more variable alternatives, such as wind, lack.

Still, it is currently economically unfavourable compared to the price and abundance of coal. According to Chakravorty's and Lin's research, coal remains the strongest. The difference between nuclear and coal energy lies

in the fixed costs associated with set-up, with nuclear being much higher and taking longer periods to break even.

To improve economic viability of nuclear energy, economic incentives must be put into place, he said. Currently a carbon tax is favoured as a way to factor unwanted carbon emissions economically. Even though climate change is altering people's opinions about nuclear energy, it does little to alleviate the fears of living next to a reactor.

"We have to be willing to accept uncertainty. Everyone is searching for a truth but there is no answer forthcoming. What is needed is a greater level of transparency by nuclear institutions, which are used to secrecy, and including the public in decisions. This is especially true for the host communities of reactors," Davidson noted. "People really don't like being told that they are stupid."

“My examples are endless, and I could go on for days — literally days.

STEVEN DOLLANSKY
SU BOG representative

—after being asked to stall while a councillor went to pick up food.

COUNCIL FORUM

Written by Jonathan Taves

Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6 p.m. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 23, where free food will be provided for all attendees.

On Tuesday, Council ran short on deep-fried pickles, samosas, and spring rolls, but dinner was saved by a delivery from Pizza 73. So if you want to find out how your student government works, come out, grab a plate, and satisfy your democratic appetite.

IT HAS BEEN BROKEN

Vice President (Student Life) Nick Dehod thanked all the volunteers and participants of Friday's world record dodgeball game. He also said that he's been meeting with representatives from the U of A's fraternities and sororities about recognition of their work on campus. There will be report on those meetings at the end of the year.

QUESTION PERIOD

Vice President (External) Beverly Eastham addressed a question about

the provincial government's budget. She said that meetings with ministry staff will be ongoing to determine how the \$54-million cut to student grants and scholarships will be distributed.

President Zach Fentiman addressed a question about the undergraduate student survey, which was an initiative of previous president Kory Mathewson. Fentiman said review of the survey's results have been put on hold due to other priorities, but a final report will be on the way after marketing and research and information staff have time to assemble the material.

Vice President (Academic) Leah Trueblood spoke about the U of A's planned transition to Gmail as its email platform. She said discussions with Google are ongoing as the University tries to negotiate a contract that reflects all of its demands. Introduction of the system is not expected until the fall.

Eastham also addressed a concern about a lack of summer employment options for students. She said that although there hasn't been a lot of improvement efforts to remedy last summer's record-breaking unemployment rates, this isn't an area of high priority for SU advocacy.

FEE RULES FINALIZED

Bill 8 passed in second reading that dictated rules for dedicated fee units. Any new DFU will be required to have

an unconditional online opt-out option available to all students. As well, a referendum will determine support for the fee at a maximum of every five years. There will be exemptions for the SU membership fee and any fee that is implemented to pay for a mortgage or bond approved by Council.

PRICE POLICY

Council had a lengthy debate on the direction of policy for Council's position on tuition debates on the Board of Governor's level.

Some councillors argued that it should be the standing policy of Council to always oppose any increase in tuition, and this should be mandated in policy.

Other Council members, most prominently Board of Governor's representative Steven Dollansky, opposed such a rigid rule, noting that the negotiating power of the body would be hindered by having positions already finalized.

The motion ultimately was sent back to the policy committee for further consideration, but it was decided that a mandatory vote opposing increases shouldn't be part of the policy. Aspects that will still be included are an emphasis on academic performance rather than financial status for student standing, and the SU will advocate for tuition levels to be that which students can save in the summer months.

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Athabasca University

Supreme court denies Khadr's return, decries his treatment

HUMERA JABIR
The McGill Daily

MONTREAL (CUP) — Omar Khadr, a Canadian citizen, will not be repatriated to Canada following a Supreme Court ruling that effectively absolves the government of any responsibility to seek his repatriation.

The ruling overturned two lower court decisions that ruled that the government should submit a request for Khadr's repatriation.

The Supreme Court denounced Canadian authorities' role in Khadr's interrogation at Guantánamo Bay as a breach of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. However, the court did not request his return to Canada.

The court's ruling said that the involvement of Canadian officials in Khadr's interrogation "offends the most basic Canadian standards about the treatment of detained youth suspects."

The justices also found that the request of repatriation was a remedy "sufficiently connected to the charter breach," but added that it was up to the federal government to determine how best to respond, because foreign affairs fall within its purview.

Dimitri Soudas, spokesperson for Prime Minister Stephen Harper, has

said that the federal government's refusal to allow Khadr to return to Canada has not changed. He added that Khadr faces "serious charges" and that he should stand trial in the U.S.

The government released a statement last week, however, noting that it would consider undisclosed alternatives that may compensate for the violation of Khadr's rights.

Nathan Whitling, one of Khadr's Canadian lawyers, said that he was disappointed with the Supreme Court's ruling, and that he did not expect any significant change in the government's position.

"We've been trying to [lobby the Canadian government] for roughly six plus years now, and, so you know, frankly I am getting a little tired of it," Whitling said.

Khadr is accused of having thrown the hand grenade that killed an American army medic in Afghanistan in July of 2002. Khadr, now 23, was 15 at the time of arrest, making him a minor under Canadian and international law.

McGill law professor François Crépeau, an expert in international human rights, disagreed with the court's decision that Khadr's case was a matter of foreign policy.

"The court did not have to

dictate the foreign policy [...] Here they agreed there was a rights violation, and I think they should have imposed a sanction. If there is a rights violation, it is within the charter, and the court has a right to enforce the charter," Crépeau said.

"[Khadr's case] shows that the Canadian government cannot go in and interrogate someone that has been tortured, subjected to inhumane and degrading torture. That is against the charter. In that sense, a small part of Canadian foreign policy is [now] constrained by the charter, which is new. It didn't exist in international law," Crépeau added.

The court's ruling concludes years of litigation in Canada. Khadr's legal battle in the U.S., however, is far from over. He will face a U.S. military commission in July, and his lawyers will now shift their focus to prepare for the trial in Guantánamo.

Whitling is concerned about the lack of due process in the military commission system.

"The charter doesn't apply to those proceedings, and the U.S. prosecution takes to the view that the U.S. Constitution doesn't even apply. His rights are limited to what is recognized by the Military Commissions Act, and they are very limited," he said.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

STAYING PUT The Supreme Court decision turned over two previous rulings.

Crépeau argued that the military commissions, though slightly improved, were still not normal criminal tribunals, and in that sense, did not offer proper procedure for trying non-military individuals.

"This is a convoluted and protracted process and we don't know how they are going to behave, especially with someone who was a minor, who I think, as many others do, was a child soldier," Crépeau said.

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Uncertainty awaits federal budget

EMMA GODMERE
 CUP Ottawa Bureau Chief

OTTAWA (CUP) — While financial experts may be lauding the end of the global recession, Canada's own financial situation remains opaque, and the question remains whether Finance Minister Jim Flaherty will have a solution to offer Canadians when he presents the federal budget in March.

With unemployment at 8.3 per cent, four financial and political experts gathered in Ottawa to discuss and estimate what lies ahead in Canada's financial future.

The pre-budget debate, entitled "Cut Spending or Keep Priming the Pump?" was organized by Canada 2020, a non-partisan social and economic policy centre, and moderated by recently retired CBC journalist Don Newman.

"The big question that we want to explore is whether the budget should start a serious process of deficit reduction and, if so, how might that realistically be achieved — or, on the other hand, whether the economy remains in a fragile state and might require additional fiscal stimulus," explained Tim Barber, co-founder of Canada 2020, to over 100 people in attendance at Ottawa's Chateau Laurier on February 3.

Parliamentary Budget Officer Kevin Page was the first panellist to speak, expressing support for stimulus package spending.

"I think the first focus in the budget has to be [the re-implementation] of the \$47 billion stimulus package that we had in the 2009 budget," he said.

He added that while Canada is in a better general position than the U.S., we still suffer from a lack of targets and transparency in our federal financial planning.

"What we've seen in the United States recently and in President Obama's budget released on [February 1 is] a level of fiscal transparency we don't have right now in Canada, and that's not good," he said. "They've released estimates on their structural budget balance in the U.S., they've



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

ADDING IT UP Parliament expects a reduced allowance for stimulus spending in the budget.

released estimates on the fiscal gap. We have not produced that analysis."

However, Scott Clark, former deputy finance minister, disagreed with Shenfeld's resistance to making quick financial decisions.

"It reminded me of a panel I was on in 1983, which was saying, 'Oh, we can wait, don't scare anyone, don't do this, don't do that,' and of course we know what happened with that," he said. "[We had] the worst financial crisis in our post-war period. I would say it's because we have done so well that we shouldn't be waiting."

Clark proposed ending stimulus spending as soon as possible and focusing more on broader policies that would consider both a short-term job creation strategy and a medium-term budget strategy.

Canadians will have the chance to see whether or not cuts will be made and just how bright our financial future will look when Flaherty presents the budget in the House of Commons on March 4.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS 2010 TO BE OR NOT TO BE? IT'S UP TO YOU!

2010 REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

The following referendum questions will appear on the ballot of this year's March 3 and 4 Students' Union Election.

MILLENNIUM VILLAGES

Do you support the establishment of a Millennium Villages Dedicated Fee, subject to the following conditions:

- The fee shall be assessed to both full and part time students at a rate of \$7.50 per term*, not to be levied more than twice per academic year*, subject to the following conditions:
 - The fee shall be initiated in the Summer 2010 term*,
 - The fee shall increase annually at a rate equal to the Alberta Consumer Price Index,
 - The fee shall expire on June 30, 2020, or at such a time that a successful referendum is conducted to rescind the fee, and
 - Students may opt out of this fee online and unconditionally.
- A Millennium Villages committee be formed to:
 - Manage and transfer collected funds to Millennium Promise†,
 - Maintain regular communication with Millennium Promise†,
 - Report on, market, and publicize the transfer of funds in a transparent and accountable way, and
 - Advertise the opt-out deadline.
- The Millennium Villages committee shall appoint one member to the Students' Union Social Responsibility Committee, and include at least one Students' Council member appointed by Students' Council in its membership.

* As defined by the 2009/2010 University of Alberta academic calendar.

† Millennium Promise is an external organization which administers the Millennium Villages Project.

UNIVERSAL BUS PASS (U-PASS)

Do you support the continuation of a Universal Bus Pass (U-Pass) subject to the following conditions:

- The U-Pass would provide unlimited usage of regular transit service through Edmonton Transit System, St. Albert Transit, and Strathcona County Transit during the Fall and/or Winter Terms to undergraduate students enrolled in at least one course for credit within the participating municipalities service area.
- The cost of the U-Pass to each student would be mandatory, and would be
 - \$91.67 per term in Fall and Winter terms for the 2010/2011 academic year,
 - \$104.17 per term in Fall and Winter terms for the 2011/2012 academic year, and
 - \$116.67 per term in Fall and Winter terms for the 2012/2013 academic year
- The following students may opt-out of the U-Pass:
 - Students enrolled in work-experience, co-op, or a practicum outside of the participating municipalities service area for a majority of a term;
 - Students unable to make use of ordinary transit services by reason of disability; and
 - Students employed by Edmonton Transit System, St. Albert Transit, or Strathcona County Transit.
- Students enrolled at Augustana are exempt from the U-Pass.
- The Students' Union shall be authorized to enter into the necessary contractual agreements with participating municipalities and the University of Alberta, contingent upon the inclusion of acceptable transparency and accountability provisions.
- The U-Pass would expire upon the passing of a referendum to that effect, or the Students' Union deciding that it can no longer adhere to any of (1) through (5).

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & WELLNESS CENTRE (PAW)

Do you support the establishment of a non-instructional fee subject to the following conditions:

- The fee would be dedicated to the construction of a new Physical Activity and Wellness (PAW) Centre on North Campus as well as concurrent upgrades to the Van Vliet Physical Education and Recreation Centre.
- The fee would be assessed in each term to undergraduate students enrolled in at least one course for credit, subject to the following conditions:
 - The fee shall be no greater than \$29.00 per term in Fall and Winter Terms;
 - The fee shall be no greater than \$14.50 per term in Spring and Summer Terms;
 - The fee shall be optional for:
 - students that are registered only in courses designated as off-campus;
 - students that are registered only in courses at Augustana campus;
 - The fee shall provide unrestricted use of the PAW Centre during its hours of operation to each undergraduate student currently paying the fee;
 - The fee shall not be assessed until the construction of the facility is complete and the student component is operational;
 - The fee shall be assessed for a period no longer than 35 years, or until the costs incurred in (1) have been recovered, whichever is first; and
 - Undergraduate students would be unable to alter or rescind the fee.
- There shall be a committee established for the PAW Centre that shall:
 - have an overall student majority;
 - provide strategic direction for the student component of the building program; and
 - establish budget principles annually.
- A building agreement is established between the Governors of the University of Alberta and the University of Alberta Students' Union that is subject to approval by Students' Council.

For more information about the elections process or the registration of sides meeting, please contact Jennifer Huygen, Chief Returning Officer at cro@su.ualberta.ca or visit www.su.ualberta.ca/vote

If you are interested in being involved in campaigning for a referendum, please come to the Candidates Meeting on February 12th at 18:00 in SUB 3-06 and become a registered member of a Yes or No side. You must attend this meeting to become a registered member. At this meeting the Campaign Manager for each side will be selected by and from the registered members.



Olympic hatred should be torched

WITH VALENTINE'S DAY LOOMING LARGE, LOVE is seemingly in the air — or so I'm told. Along with ushering in warm, fuzzy feelings of affection for others, there's also a great deal of national love floating around thanks to the Olympics officially getting underway tomorrow night in Vancouver. National pride has reached a fever pitch, and while not many things seem to get Canadians feeling patriotic, the Olympics, for the most part, have seemed to accomplish that difficult task, unless you're one of the Olympic haters out there.

As the world turns its collective eyes upon Vancouver and our fair country for more than two weeks of athletic competition, the Olympic haters are sure to come out of the woodwork, and to them I have this to say: make like Wiarton Willie and go back in your holes for another six weeks of winter.

These people can be broken down into two categories: "people with a cause" and "people without a pulse." Those without a pulse lack a single ounce of patriotism in their bloodstream, or simply could care less about sport as a whole and spurn those who look to the Olympics as something little more than a distraction. Those with a cause have many reasons to disdain the Olympic movement and the problems they see associated with it, yet using the Games as a tool to bring about change has yet to prove effective.

There will undoubtedly be activists coming out and attempting to make their points in Vancouver — it's free and easy publicity for them. With the world's media converging on Van-City, looking to tell the story of not only the Games themselves from an athletic perspective, but also the stories around the Games, it isn't tough to see why making a statement at the Olympics has in the past got attention and will continue to do so. Literally thousands of journalists have descended on B.C. to cover the events, and with those journalists comes an easy opportunity to nab a minute or two on the evening news. This is the reality of the Games and what they bring with them, and while that's understandable, the politicization of the Games has yet to solve anything, nor will it ever.

Turning the Olympics into something political is nothing new. Events like the 1972 Olympic Hostage tragedy have shaped not only the Games as an event, but also the greater political picture of the day. There will always be an inherent political aspect to them, which is unfortunate given the fact that the Games in their purest form are supposedly a common ground between nations to participate at athletically, while putting their differences aside, but that doesn't mean it's a good thing.

There's something, however, that always seems to get ignored when discussing the Olympics and what they bring with them, whether it be in the case of the Beijing Olympics when thousands were displaced from their homes to make room for the Games, or in the case of Vancouver with the not-so-pretty locale known as the Downtown Eastside being exposed to the world — the athletes. These athletes, who are the very basis for the Games, get lost in the fray that is the political aspect of the Games often by both those without a pulse and those with a cause.

Olympic haters will always exist, and while I don't agree with their dislike for the games or the politicization of the games on many levels they perpetuate, it's a reality. For all of you out there who will be tuning into the Games though, just sit back, relax, and realize that it's okay to show some pride for not only your country, but also the athletes who devote their lives to sport — it only comes around once in a blue moon after all.

EVAN DAUM
Sports Editor

The smoke monster landed at a 108

The Purity Test
Alludes to the *Lost* premiere
Spoiler alert, jerks.

LUCAS WAGNER
Proud 82



ROSS VINCENT

LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

A Valentine's Day prayer

Lord, where did we go wrong? We followed your instructions exactly.

We *multiplied* — maybe too well (3.5 billion people on Earth — how many can it take?).

We certainly *divided*. (We are the haves — what have the have-nots got?)

And we are very good at *subtracting* from others — to *add* to our own.

Oh yes, Lord, we've gone one step further — we can *compute*. (We all walk around like programmed computers.)

Isn't this what you specified? Please verify in your next commandments. After all, we've proved that we obey and follow you. Only, well, it sounds a bit silly, but we need your help. If you can imagine!

Forgive us...

RUTH M. LISTER
February 14, 1974

I Choo-Choo-Chews You

We are embarrassed. As students of the Faculty of Education, we are

disappointed with the low standards of performance exhibited by many of our colleagues. No wonder Education has received distinguished merits for being a "bozo faculty!" Let us cite some examples.

The following is an excerpt from a critique written by a third-year Education student:

"State goals clearly as to wheather it was discriptive words they sought or a specific drawing or what. If it was their intention to use discriptive words why were some suggestion ignored? Thier lesson was basicly a good idea"

Count the spelling errors! "Wheather"? "Discriptive"? "Thier"? "Basicly"? You won't find any of these words in any Webster's dictionary. Count the grammatical errors! This person is a prospective teacher!

Not only is the grammar atrocious; the quality of thought is poor (or lacking) as well. For example, during a recent class discussion on attending job interviews, one student asked (direct quote), "Do you think that we should be well-dressed and well-groomed wen we go for our interviews?", completely ignoring the fact that this was pitifully obvious! If you think that is bad, read on.

When one prof announced an

upcoming test, she said that there would be five questions. One student promptly asked, "And you would expect us to respond?" The prof was dumbfounded.

Please do not consider these as isolated examples; situations such as the aforementioned occur daily. Like we said before, we are embarrassed to be members of this faculty.

Measures must be taken to upgrade the entire program. Perhaps setting a quota would be a good starting point. A language competency examination prior to entry may also prove beneficial. Finally, a greater challenge should be incorporated into certain Education courses.

It is time to instill pride in the faculty members, and to give Education a worthy respect.

VAL LOOV & JOAN SCHELL
February 14, 1980

Well, someone's sex bomb went off early.

Excuse me if I sound like a Lennon-esque peace zealot, but all I've got to say is: better red than dead, man! Maybe democracy is worth fighting for, but what is ideology to a dead planet?

Look, pal, if an ICBM is headed

our way, no amount of Yank "protection" is gonna help you — you are gonna fry!

Give peace a chance, and give Canada a little credit for not jumping on the nuclear bandwagon.

SHANNON COUSA
February 14, 1989

Letters from the Archives is a semi-regular feature where the Gateway runs historical letters that we feel are of particular importance — or are just really hilarious. Or when we have no actual runnable letters.

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca or delivered via origami swan to SUB 3-04. Website comments are also occasionally printed.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication. They should also probably not be about Valentine's Day. I think we've pretty well run that train into the ground. There's always St. Patrick's Day, I guess

Secrets of the estrogen sect revealed



HANNAH COCHRAN

As a forewarning, this was going to be an open letter to the 11 or so boyfriends I have floating around, but I decided that the rest of the world could probably stand to benefit from the knowledge found herein, because in the words of the great poet Robert Frost, “I know what them girls like.”

Valentine’s Day is coming up, and maybe you have a special lady-friend, or at least want one, but have no idea what in the world to get her. Doubtless, some surprisingly perceptive instincts are percolating in that love-addled Cro-Magnon brain of yours, and you might be thinking that the whole flowers/chocolates/jewelry schtick might not quite be your guaranteed ticket aboard the blow job train that society implies. But that’s where the instincts leave you, and so you come to me. You poor bastard.

You’re right about one thing, at least. The Valentine’s Day Industrial Complex serves to do one thing, and one thing only. It reduces every couple to the same couple in order to sell the maximum number of candy units. Maybe the lady of your desire does want

dead plants and a bleak future of diabetes, but it’s just as likely that she wants to bone or play laser tag. Maybe she just wants to rant about the Valentine’s Day Industrial Complex — who knows? I certainly don’t, and neither do marketing companies.

What women actually want regarding the subject at hand can be summed up in two parts. First, for their suitor to be interested in them as an individual, and secondly, to have fun. Sorry — that’s it. That’s the big secret, and don’t make me tell you again.

The real problem with Valentine’s Day is *not* that it’s cheesy, or that it’s a pathetic attempt to show off and validate a meaningless relationship.

You aren’t going to find the secret to unlocking her newly purchased panties here, I’m afraid. But despair not, young Romeo! All you need to do is focus your attention away from the universe located conveniently around your own head, and attempt to deduce what will get you in the way of your special friend’s favours. You see, not all women are the same. It’s a difficult truth that women cannot be reduced to a cosmo-swilling, delusional princess stereotype, much in the same way that I haven’t

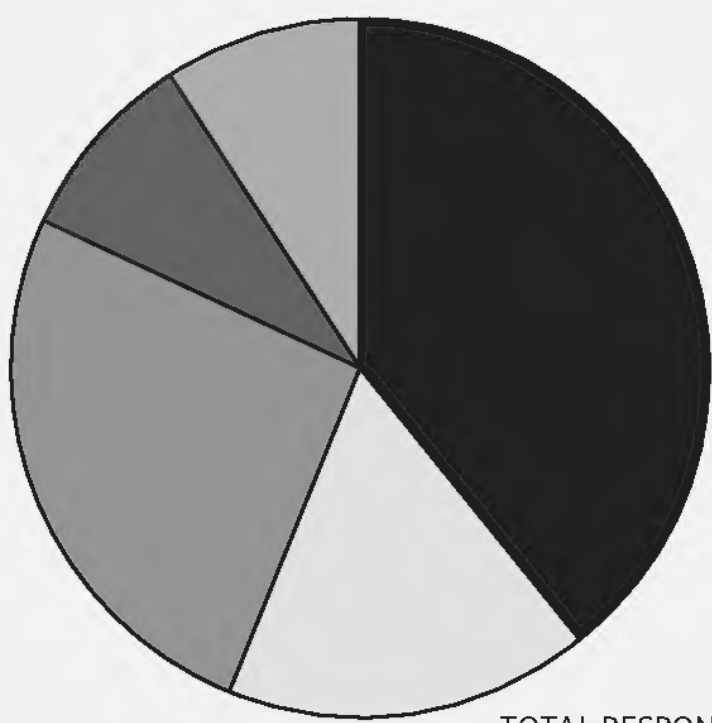
reduced you to a sex-obsessed, clueless stereotype — er, what I was saying is, look at the way she spends her time, listen to the things she talks about, and at the very least, she’ll appreciate the fact that you tried. Maybe. Again, none of this is a guarantee, because I don’t actually know you.

You see, the real problem with Valentine’s Day is *not* that it’s cheesy, or that it’s a pathetic attempt to show off and validate a meaningless relationship. It assumes that all men have exactly one thing on their minds, and that women will allow this in exchange for a specific quota of spending. It is the reduction of each human relationship and all the eccentricity and erratic behaviours found therein to one saccharine, soulless dinner date.

I don’t dislike Valentine’s Day, and quite frankly, I think we need it. We have one day out of the year when we are required to think about another person, and for that I am willing to put up with sparkling heart decorations and insulting commercials. But we need to use the day to celebrate the things that make us unique. So bake some brownies, go to a fancy restaurant and throw appetizers at the waiter, have sex somewhere on campus, watch a New Wave film retrospective, play video games, or go sledding. Do something surprising, essentially. You aren’t satisfied? My advice isn’t good enough? Fine. Forget everything I just said. This Valentine’s Day, just do as I do and go get high. You’re welcome.

readerpoll

“Has the Oilers’ recent upswing given you new hope for the team?”



TOTAL RESPONSES: 89

- Start engraving the Stanley Cup! (9%)
- There's potential, but I dunno ... (9%)
- Absolutely not. (26%)
- I don't follow hockey. (17%)
- Taylor Hall! Taylor Hall! TAYLOR HALL! (39%)

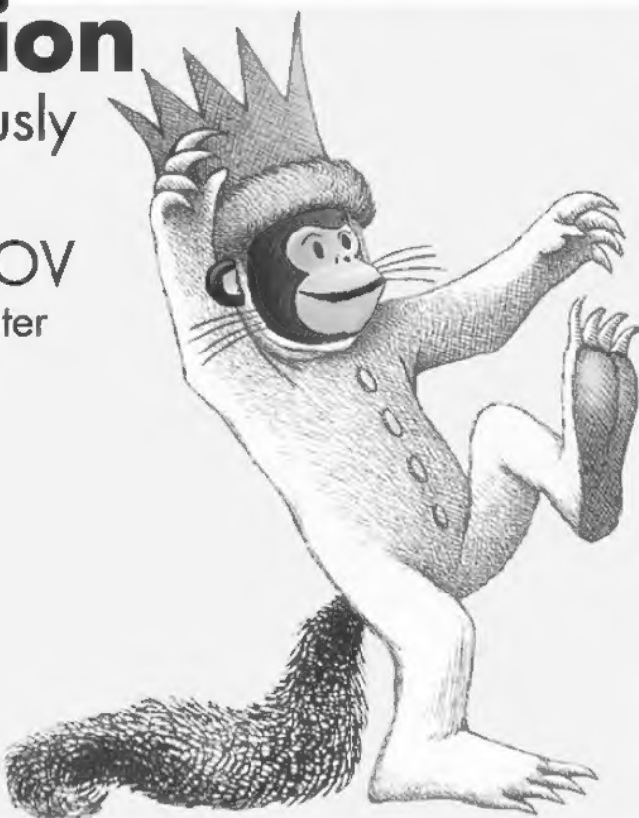
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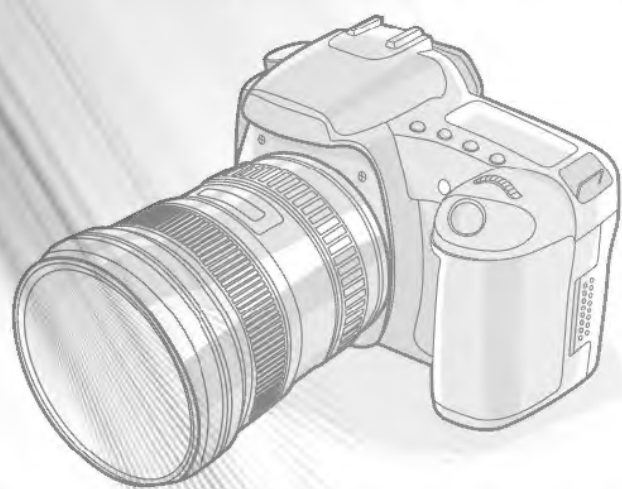
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DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES:
February 26, 2010



GFC COMMITTEES: STUDENTS NEEDED

The terms of office for students serving on **General Faculties Council (GFC)** Standing Committees, Appeal Boards and committees to which GFC elects members will expire on April 30, 2010. Undergraduate and graduate students (as noted) are encouraged to apply now to serve on any of the following committees for terms of office beginning May 1, 2010 and ending April 30, 2011. (Some students currently serving on these committees may be seeking re-election to serve additional terms.)

Committee	Student Vacancies	Meeting Times (monthly)
ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (APC): GFC's senior committee dealing with academic, financial and planning issues.	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate	2:00 pm / twice monthly, alternating Wednesdays
ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE (ASC): GFC committee dealing with admissions, academic standing, transfer and examination policies and other related issues.	ONE undergraduate	9:00 am / 3rd Thursday
CAMPUS LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE (CLRC): Reviews Code of Student Behaviour, Code of Applicant Behaviour and Residence Community Standards.	TWO students (undergraduate and/or graduate)	9:30 am / 4th Thursday
COMMITTEE ON THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (CLE): Promotes an optimal learning environment in alignment with guiding documents of the University of Alberta.	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate	2:00 pm / 1st Thursday
FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (FDC): Recommends on planning and use of facilities, proposed buildings, and parking and transportation facilities.	ONE undergraduate	1:30 pm / 4th Thursday
UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (UASC): Approves new awards for undergraduate students including selection and eligibility criteria.	TWO undergraduates	2:00 pm / 2nd Tuesday
UNIVERSITY TEACHING AWARDS COMMITTEE (UTAC): Adjudicates the Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the William Hardy Alexander Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the Provost's Award for Early Achievement of Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and the Teaching Unit Award.	TWO undergraduates & ONE graduate	Normally three times a year (October, March and June)
GFC ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE (AAC) / UNIVERSITY APPEAL BOARD (UAB): AAC hears and decides student appeals regarding academic standing. UAB hears and decides student appeals and applicant appeals regarding disciplinary decisions made under the Code of Student Behaviour or Code of Applicant Behaviour.	AAC: THREE undergraduates & ONE graduate UAB: EIGHT under-graduates & THREE graduates	• Students will normally participate in 3 to 4 hearings per year. • Hearings are scheduled as needed Monday to Thursday; • Hearings normally start at 4:30 or 5:00 PM, and last 3 to 5 hours. Students should have flexible evening schedules two nights a week (including summer months).
COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS (COSA): The aim of the Council is the betterment of the quality of student life at the University of Alberta. (Open only to current members of GFC.)	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate	Afternoons/normally 3rd Monday (September to March)

Application forms and committee information are available on the University Governance website: <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/governance/index.cfm> or in Room 3-20 University Hall. Applications should be completed and returned to University Governance by **Monday, March 1, 2010**. For information regarding committee membership and terms of reference, students are invited to contact: Ms. Marlene Lewis, Coordinator to the GFC Nominating Committee (NC), at 780-492-1938, or by e-mail: marlene.lewis@ualberta.ca.

NOTE: There is ONE STUDENT VACANCY on the GFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE for an undergraduate student who is a GFC member for the 2010-11 academic year. Expressions of interest for this position should be directed to Garry Bodnar (garry.bodnar@ualberta.ca), in his capacity as Secretary to the GFC Replenishment Committee, University Governance.

In defence of commercialization



BRUCE
CINNAMON

As Valentine's Day approaches, and the "seasonal" sections of our local Walmarts overflow with overpriced crap that we buy out of some sense of obligation to our loved ones, I can't help but smile. Sure, the probable destination of the novelty items we buy is a landfill or a dusty bag in the basement, and sure, giving these trinkets as gifts is a lazy and insincere expression of love, but this is where we are, and that pile of festering trash is no less than a glorious symbol of our new religion: consumerism.

Unfortunately, the only things more abundant than cheaply made trash are cynical comments about the "regrettable commercialization" of society. These statements are invariably uttered in tones of contemptuous melancholy, as if they are profound and original observations. The critics of consumerism moan about the "loss of priorities" for those who indulge in spending their money. They complain that we're now a people without values or principles, a statement they have somehow incomprehensibly extrapolated from our purchasing habits.

Why can't we purchase things that last, they whine. Firstly, as is obvious to anyone with a Toyota product, things are no longer built to last, but made expressly for the purpose of

being replaced and upgraded later on. Secondly, this sort of thinking leaves no room for the average aesthete to enjoy the sensuality of his world or express herself through individualistic purchases. Would these critics condemn us to a drab, worn world where everything is patch-fixed and there is no opportunity for novelty, for the new and the invigorating?

Knowing the bar is set so low, aspiring entrepreneurs can feel hopeful that they will someday deliver their own ideas to the consumer.

Without the invention and consumption of new products, we would stagnate. If not for the opportunity to buy and sell new things, no matter how seemingly ridiculous or useless, new ideas would fail. We would not have microwaves, or AA batteries, or Tivo. We would be forever relegated to the products and practices of the past.

But surely we could exercise a little moderation, the critics assert. Surely these products aren't needed in such great volumes. To which we must ask, who then will decide which products ought to be marketed, and which refused? Which quantities produced and which reduced? The consumer knows his best interest, and expresses with his wallet which products should

survive and which should be discontinued. Furthermore, those giant piles of worthless trash give hope to anyone who would invent and market their own. Knowing that the bar is set so low, aspiring entrepreneurs feel hopeful that they will someday deliver their own ideas to the consumer.

But think of where all these useless, outdated products go, they cry. Can we deny that they clutter up the world, destroying habitats and maiming the environment? But using the same argument, why buy food or medicine or toilet paper? Their destination is far from glorious — they are used and then discarded. The purpose of this "indulgent, materialistic purchasing" is the same as that of buying food — to attain, briefly, a feeling of temporary enjoyment and satisfaction. It's not only "necessities" that must be accounted as consumables. These critics do not appreciate that the emotional satiation of a buyer is as important as his physical appetites, and that the fancy of the purchaser exhausts itself quickly and needs to be replenished.

Beyond the joys of the individual consumer are the benefits of a commercialized culture. It is a culture of convenience, of opportunity, and of 99-cent candygrams — a culture where we needn't exhaust ourselves maintaining things or become too attached to them. In short, a culture of plenty, and a culture of love, albeit artificial and communicated by Hallmark. In the end, though, perhaps that's more of a relief than a tragedy.

V-Day not quite living up to its heritage



ALIX
KEMP

"Eventually, the church offered up the condolence prize of Valentine's Day, which gradually evolved into the pointless holiday we have now. And I have to say, I'm not terribly impressed with the substitution. Way to take a fun, exciting festival and make it a commercialized expression of bland, pre-packaged romance."

Supposedly, Valentine's Day was originally a Catholic holiday meant to celebrate the life of Saint Valentine. Of course, the Catholics can't tell you exactly which Saint Valentine they mean, since there were at least three of them, and over the past millennium they've become more or less indistinguishable. However, being the good Christians that they were, probably none of them were falling in love ("with Jesus" doesn't count) or getting laid. If they were, the Church sure as hell didn't want anyone to know about it.

To figure out where this whole romantic element comes from, we'll have to go back further — likely to pre-classical pagan festivals that we've lost most records of. Forms of these celebrations lasted into the classical period, with the Greek festival of *Hieros Gamos*, and the Roman fertility festival of Lupercalia — which they probably adapted from an earlier Greek tradition, because the Romans liked to do that. Of course, the Greeks were guilty of the same thing.

Hieros Gamos was once a Sumerian ritual where people role-played as their gods in order to encourage an abundance of crops and babies — essentially the ancient and sexy predecessor to *Dungeons & Dragons*. It seems the Greeks were a bit more prudish, because when they got their hands on it, *Hieros Gamos* became a much tamer celebration of the marriage of

Zeus and Hera, and apparently a popular wedding season for everybody else. Lupercalia, meanwhile, was a party of a different kind, one more exciting than the bland union of some fictional gods, and less geeky than the NC-17 rated version of DnD.

From what historians can reconstruct, it seems primarily to have consisted of three days of everyone getting really drunk, running around naked in the streets, and hitting each other with pieces of goat leather for the sake of "purification." Unlike today's couples-only Valentine's celebrations, Lupercalia was more or less a free-for-all. The only people not allowed were young, unmarried men, as it was thought they would tempt the young, nubile, married-at-13 wives.

Unfortunately for the Romans, the Pope eventually showed up, made everyone put their clothes on, and ultimately decided to ban the party altogether in the fifth century. Eventually, the church offered up the condolence prize of Valentine's Day, which gradually evolved into the pointless holiday we have now. And I have to say, I'm not terribly impressed with the substitution. Way to take a fun, exciting festival that involved gorgeous women exposing themselves to be smacked on the ass with leather straps, and make it a commercialized expression of bland, pre-packaged romance.

So here's the plan: let's tell the Catholic church we're not impressed with their crappy substitute holiday,

and forcefully reclaim the ancient tradition of Lupercalia. Of course, we'll have to make some adjustments for it to work — for instance, running around Edmonton naked in February would probably result in frostbite in some incredibly sensitive places. Also, in the name of inclusiveness, I vote for including hot single men in the festivities.

Now, the weather problem isn't insurmountable — we could and should move the party indoors, at least until global warming makes Edmonton as balmy as Italy in early spring. Furthermore, in order to accommodate the three solid days of alcohol and nudity, we'd need to make February 13-15 a national holiday — it would mean replacing Alberta's Family Day, but I think that's more than reasonable. We could always grandfather Family Day in underneath the umbrella of Lupercalia — it is, after all, a fertility festival, and that's where families come from. There's also the small, mildly inconvenient matter of indecent exposure laws, but I'm sure we could get them waived for three days a year with no problems at all.

So write your MLA this instant and demand immediate representation for Lupercalia — call it Valentine's Day Deluxe. I'm sure it's culturally insensitive to adopt a holiday from a culture whose gods nobody believes in, but hey, it's not like the ancient Romans are around to complain about it.

Opinions are like...
OPPOSSUMS
(timid, yet
consciously clinging
onto any available
surface)

GATEWAY OPINION:
bragging about prehensile tails since 1910.

Meetings Tuesdays at 5 P.M. in SUB 3-04

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VIDEO GAME ANTIQUITIES:
AERIS' DEATH

Admit it. You cried at that pivotal scene in *Final Fantasy VII* when Aeris Gainsborough was impaled on an oversized katana, never to pray to vague mystic earth spirits again. Besides randomly offing one of the game's protagonists, it also meant that the epic romance of Cloud and Aeris was tragically cut short. I'm wiping away tears here.

Gateway Opinion isn't above having a good sobfest over a dead fictional anime character. In fact, we're so bummed out, we're taking a week off. Meetings resume on February 23 at 5 p.m. in SUB 3-04; come on up and have a good cry. Or tell us we're all a bunch of sissies for getting so worked up about this. That's the beauty of Gateway Opinion — all viewpoints are equally valid. Even if you're wrong.

GATEWAY OPINION

inopportunately running out of phoenix downs since 1910



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Double double, boys' love troubles

LANCE & EVAN
MUDRYK

Being twins has its perks. We get to share clothes, a driver's license, and as far as our boss is concerned, we're just one guy who works 20-hour days and forgets most things that have happened after returning from his lunch break. Best of all, if one of us dies, we can always use the other's genetically engineered Avatar body to help save a species of indigenous blue giants. Yep, being a twin is pretty awesome.

That said, being twins comes with an inconvenience that few realize is a problem. We may look similar, but that doesn't mean that we should take part in everyone else's sexual fantasies. Although few have expressed such an interest, we have a high enough opinion of ourselves that that's what we imagine most ladies are thinking about when they see us strutting down the narrow hallways of HUB Mall. "Boy, would I like to be part of that Lance-and-Evan sandwich," these hypothetical women think. To be fair, we can't blame them. What happens in other people's minds is their business, but the idea of other people throwing us into their sexual fantasies just because we're twins makes us feel dirty and objectified in the worst possible way.

"Think about it from our perspectives. We don't want to see each other having sex. Ever. Imagine how uncomfortable it would be to watch your own brother or sister bone some random stranger on the bus, in the library, or on the boat — wherever good times can be found. Gross, right?"

Think about it from our perspective. We don't want to see each other having sex. Ever. Imagine how uncomfortable it would be to watch your own brother or sister bone some random stranger on the bus, in the library, or on the boat — wherever good times can be found. Gross, right?

Now imagine what it'd be like if they asked you to join them in this sexy ritual. Kind of hot? Yes. That's a given, because it's us, but it would become awkward midway through, once certain body parts have been inserted into certain other body parts and friction is being applied in odd proportions. And what the hell are we supposed to do about this? What if we make eye contact? Should we nod politely? Give each other a high-five? Never speak of this again? We're not sure how to proceed. The idea of having sex with two identical people seems hot, but only in concept.

Then there's the identity problem. Sometimes, during sex, it'll be difficult for the lady to tell who's who. One time, a fine lass was being pleased solely by Evan, but her moaning constantly made reference to Lance, who was sitting on the ottoman, watching. We tried to pretend we didn't notice, but as we enjoyed

our post-coital cigarettes, we told her of her mistake. And boy, did her face turn red! Twins may be a novelty, but you risk embarrassing yourself when you're tangled in the sheets.

Our point is that, as twins, we start to lose our individuality when the only action we can get is as a group package. We can't help being twins; we were simultaneously born that way, from an unusually wide birth canal. So the onus is on everybody else to stop objectifying our collective selves, and to start objectifying us for who we are. After all, Lance is learning how to play the guitar. Ladies love a musician, amiright? And Evan, he's a, well ... hmm. Let's go with the fact that his *Star Wars* impressions can be mildly entertaining around the right audience.

So in conclusion, sexual fantasies are part of life. We all have our weird perversions and fetishes, but it's important to keep them a victimless crime. Having a threesome with twins may be your lifelong dream, but how is that any better than if it was to have sex with a 14-year-old schoolgirl? Chase your dreams, people, but aim for something better than twins. Take us, for instance. Someday, we hope to have sex with quadruplets.

Love on the rocks? Don't you worry, kids — Dr. Mike is here to save the date

MIKE
CHAFE

word on the children's menu at Denny's. Lucky for you, I'm here to help: Dr. Mike, certified relationship expert and part-time dry cleaner.

Now, I'm sure you're wondering what qualifies me to lecture on such a delicate and important topic. First off, last semester I attended three weeks' worth of neurology lectures before I realized it wasn't my German literature class, and that I was, in fact, in the wrong building.

Valentine's Day is essentially the Kentucky Derby of relationships, except with fewer horses. Unless you're into that.

The point is, I understand how the human brain is affected by love. Plus, I've watched three whole episodes of *The Bachelor*, most of them in English! Apparently there's something important about roses going on there, though I might have missed some of the subtleties. The point is, it's these unique qualifications that have earned me the title of Dr. Mike.

Now, the most important aspect of succeeding to woo your Valentine is finding the perfect card. I recommend avoiding a store-bought card. Those Hallmark horrors scream tacky and uncreative to your partner, and besides, it's impossible to choose the card on which the Jonas Brothers look the cutest. You start by

comparing Nick's eyes, to Joe's hair, to Kevin's firm, well-muscled ... I'm sorry, what were we talking about?

Instead, I'd advise you take a firm, clever, D.I.Y. route. Nothing says "I love you" like a well-crafted paper heart with a personalized poem on it. However, be careful what you write. Words are a powerful tool, just like a drill, or an army of angry monkeys.

Next, we must discuss the necessary steps you should take to ensure your special someone is struck by Cupid's arrow. If you really want to make a lasting impression on your date, the best advice I can give you is to keep your mouth shut. No one wants to hear about your collection of rare bugs or your crackpot theories about what's really happening on *Lost*.

Rather, I recommend staring silently at your date with a big smile, making sure never to break eye contact. By doing this, your date will see that you truly care about what they have to say and will surely fall for you. Or perhaps they'll think you're an abnormal creep and escape. But the important thing is you'll know, and you can do something with this valuable knowledge. Something like cry into your pillow for hours and hours and hours.

Well, that's the sum total of my advice — you now know all you need to be the world's greatest lover. Take my word and your Valentine's Day plans are sure to go off without a hitch! And feel free to send me a card as a token of appreciation, but only if it has Nick Jonas on it. His eyes are so dreamy.

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... And a last word on what a *real* love story should be



JONN
KMECH

That little bastard Cupid has snuck up behind us once again and jabbed us all in the ass. With the imminent arrival of Valentine's Day, prospective lotharios are once again being forced to cater to the needs of their girlfriends. But I for one don't buy into all this lovey-dovey hokum. Valentine's Day is a holiday created by card companies and chocolate vendors that simply reinforces unrealistic romantic stereotypes that a modern man like myself can't possibly compete with. A word to the wise, ladies — you've been reading far too many romance novels.

Not only do women expect a box of chocolates and a dozen roses these days, but now we're supposed to book some kind of expensive dinner date or romantic getaway as well. How am I supposed to afford this on the salary I make as a muscled, oiled-up lumberjack in suspenders who just happens to be the kindest, gentlest man in the world? I spend most of my days chopping wood in the forest shirtless, with only a few breaks in between to wistfully imagine meeting an innocent, yet lonely, yet down-to-earth girl who could become my bride, allowing us to live alone together forever in my secluded woodland cabin and rescue me from my heartbreaking isolation, thereby teaching me to bloom in a garden of love. Understandably, between that and riding my white stallion through the ocean mist on the beach wearing only a pair of torn blue jeans, this leaves me precious little time to pick up a Pot of Gold and flowers.

Now, if I do somehow find time to take a girl out for dinner, we're almost bound to get into an argument about who should pay or if we should "go dutch." This causes yet another needless conflict, since, being a prince and the heir to the throne of Luxembourg, I could of course afford to pay for our meal. However, that would completely blow the cover I've been building as a refrigerator repairman, who wants to sweep a widowed damsel away to my castle in Europe to be my queen. But must first find out if she wants me for money, love — or the purest motive, lust. Therefore, I have to awkwardly ask her to pay, which doesn't exactly put me in an optimal position to make her wildest fantasies come true.

If passion were a crime, then lock me in jail and throw away the key. But if we want true gender equality, men will have to confront the ridiculous stereotypes and romantic delusions that persist about Valentine's Day.

The point is, in our frantic modern world, it can be occasionally tough to find time to be chivalrous and romantic. But considering the length of time I already invest in our relationship, to demand more on Valentine's Day is completely uncalled for. Do you ladies even realize how much effort it requires for someone like me, a rippled firefighter with strong family values, to extinguish the only fire that has ever consumed me — the fire burning inside your heart, a heart I'd swear I'd recognize as the one that beats in time with mine?

Can you even contemplate how much time it takes to pick you up in my strong, rugged arms

and carry you off to my serene Spanish villa to have my way with you in a fit of sizzling passion, the likes of which you couldn't have possibly imagined? Have you ever considered that as an overworked, undersexed officer of the law, I may have other things to attend to in my hectic schedule than your most basic carnal desires? I think I speak for all wealthy Greek shipping tycoons out there — who sit longingly for days on their private yachts in the Mediterranean, trying to decide between the wholesome love of the all-American girl or the seductive Czech temptress — when I say, have you ever really thought about me and my problems?

If passion were a crime, then throw me in jail and toss away the key. But if we want true gender equality, men have to confront the ridiculous stereotypes and romantic delusions that persist regarding Valentine's Day. That way, we can quell unrealistic expectations about the holiday, and embrace the joys of steamy eternal love. So I shall stand boldly on that hill by the seaside — you remember, the one where we spent that magical summer together when you convinced me to please you in new and exciting ways, that summer that felt as if it would never end. I shall stand in protest as I say: I am fed up with all the nonsensical fantasy regarding my celestial visage, my flowing golden locks, my half-man, half-equine lower body, and my inadequate ability to take your breath away this Sunday. And finally, I shall stand there on that hill until my lady returns to claim the trinket she dropped so many years ago — a testament to the love that reached the depths of the ocean, a forlorn love that others cannot possibly fathom.

So enjoy your sad excuse for a holiday, you perusers of sad romance and dejected feelings. Entertain your obvious notions of what you feel romance should be, and see if it makes you any happier this year. As for myself, I shall be curled up in an armchair at home, reading through my library of decidedly manly literature. Yes. Manly.

THE BURLAP SACK

Picture this: you're sitting in SUB with your friends, and you look over to see a very passionate couple going for a gold medal in tonsil hockey. Their slow, vague slurping sounds can be heard over the din of student chatter. They're occupying virtually the identical location on their couch, compressed into tangled mass of arms, and legs, and lips, and — heard enough?

Yeah, so have the rest of us. I'm not so much concerned with all personal displays of affection, just the over-the-top spectacles that make us question the general mental state of the student population.



I always envisioned going to university would provide a path of escape from the cliché stereotype of lascivious behavior during high school, only to be slapped in the face, once again, by a group of people who clearly didn't pick up on proper social etiquette. Your desire for each other is great, but it's making the rest of our gag reflexes kick into high gear. Is it really that difficult to reign in the hormones until you're in a secluded space? Most people don't want to be a part of your public charade of intimacy, and forcing it upon them is just plain selfish.


There's been a line crossed and I'd like to assist in changing this situation before public vs. private levels of intimacy become too intermingled. By all means, you PDAers, show affection to your significant other; but please do so in an acceptable manner. And by "acceptable," I mean "somewhere else, very far away from where I'm sitting, trying to eat my lunch."

It comes down to the age-old concept of respect. We respect you by refraining from provocative behaviour in front of your eyes, so we expect the same treatment in return. For now, due to this lack of respect, you're being exiled to the Burlap Sack to think about what you've done. Yes, this is what privacy looks like. Go hard.

STEPHANIE REEVES

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature wherein a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.





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THE PURITY TEST

WELCOME, BRAVE MORTAL

You stand before the path of humanity, and all the temptations that accompany your steps. Come, decipher the etchings upon the temple walls and realize your divine potential, as we look down upon you to decide which path of purity you are fated to walk.

Photos by Sam Brooks, Dan McKechnie, and Aaron Yeo

THE REALM OF DIONYSUS

No God is more grounded in the orgies of Olympus than our fair Dionysus. The question is then if you can handle your mead as well as him ...

Do you smoke? (1 pt.)
What's the most cigarettes you've smoked in one day? (1 pt. for every 5)

Have you ever smoked grass? (1 pt.)
Did you call it "wacky tabaccy"? (-1 pt.)
Have you ever smoked grass from a lawnmower bag? (2 pts.)

Have you ever driven high? (2 pts.)
Have you ever been so high you left the stove on? (2 pts.)
So high you left the car on? (3 pts.)
So high you left the car in drive? (4 pts.)
So high you forgot you were high? (5 pts.)

Have you ever smoked on the water? (3 pts.)
Did it light a fire in the sky? (5 pts.)

Have you ever been high on:
Mushrooms? (2 pts.)
Acid? (2 pts.)
Meth? (3 pts.)
Heroin? (3 pts.)
Ecstasy? (4 pts.)
Cocaine? (4 pts.)
Marijuana with cocaine? (5 pts.)
Did you refer to it as "juicy"? (-15 pts.)
Cough syrup? (3 pts.)
Glue or gas? (5 pts.)

Banana peels? (-2 pts.)
Hemlock? (10 pts.)
Pants? (12 pts.)

Have you grown cannabis? (2 pts.)
Was it to get high? (1 pt.)
Because you didn't think it would actually work? (2 pts.)
To sell? (5 pts.)
Did your house get condemned because of it? (7 pts.)
Was it to make rope? (-3 pts.)
Rope for pot-fueled bondage? (5 pts.)

Have you ever been drunk? (1 pt.)
Have you ever been drunk on Listerine? (3 pts.)
Was your vomit minty-fresh? (1 pt.)
Did you make everyone check? (5 pts.)

Have you ever been so drunk that you threw up? (2 pts.)
Was it at Pearl Jade (R.I.P.)? (2 pts.)
Inches from the bathroom? (2 pts.)
In a bar? (2 pts.)
On the bar? (3 pts.)
On the guy or girl you were talking up at the bar? (5 pts.)
On a date? (1 pt.)
On your date? (3 pts.)
On the side of a building? (1 pt.)
On your friend's porch? (1 pt.)
On public transit? (2 pts.)

On a golf course? (2 pts.)
In the sandtrap (3 pts.)
On a bouncer? (5 pts.)
In front of a teacher or professor? (10 pts.)
In the middle of a class? (2 pts.)

Have you been injured because you were drunk? (1 pt.)
Break any bones? (5 pts.)
Did you have to take time off work? (2 pts.)
Did it require a trip to the hospital? (5 pts.)
Did it require surgery? (8 pts.)

What's the most different types of liquor you've mixed in one night? (1 pt. for every type after the first)
In one glass? (2 pts. plus 1 for every type after the first)
In one mouthful? (3 pts. plus 1 for every type after the first)

Have you ever done a keg stand? (2 pts.)
With your pants on the ground? (5 pts.)
Have you ever bonged a beer? (2 pts.)
Bonged a cooler? (5 pts.)
Shotgunned a beer? (2 pts.)
Done a strikeout? (5 pts.)
Participated in a chugging contest? (1 pts.)
Did you win? (3 pts.)
Did you spill any? (-3 pts.)
Ever Björn Borg'd a shot? (5 pts.)
Have you ever drank on the job? (2 pts.)

Have you ever played Sociables? (1 pt.)
Beer pong? (2 pts.)
Three-man? (3 pts., and drink)
Ever completed a power hour? (4 pts.)
A centurion? (6 pts.)
An Edward Fortyhands? (8 pts. if completed in one evening; otherwise, you took too long)

Have you ever made a drinking game based around ...
A television show? (1 pt.)
A movie? (1 pt.)
Was it *Twilight*? (-2 pts.)
Did you have "Drink when there's slo-mo angst" as a category? (4 pts. — how are you currently sober?)
A video game? (1 pt.)
A book? (2 pts.)
The Bible? (5 pts.)
Students' Council? (-1 pt.)
Your work schedule? (3 pts.)
Your wedding? (4 pts.)
House of Commons on CPAC? (2 pts.)
The Gateway's Purity Test (5 pts.)
Pierre McGuire? (-1 pt.)

Have you ever polished off a six-pack by yourself in one night? (2 pts.)
A 12-pack? (4 pts.)
A 24-pack? (8 pts.)
Of Red Bull Energy Shots™? (-10 pts.)
An entire keg? (16 pts.)
A two-six of 80-proof? (4 pts.)
A two-six of Everclear? (8 pts.)
A two-six of paint thinner? (20 pts.)

Have you ever been to a house party? (1 pt.)
Hosted a house party? (1 pt.)
Did the cops show up? (3 pts.)
Did they join you? (5 pts.)
Out of pity? (-5 pts.)

Have you ever been to a toga party? (2 pts.)
Have you ever been to a goat party? (10 pts., and we really don't want to know)





THE TICKET TO HADES

Hades drew Persephone into his domain when she succumbed to mortal temptation. Perhaps you will make the same decision ...

Have you put on the Freshman 15? (1 pt.)
The Sophomore 30? (2 pts.)
The Gateway 47? (5 pts.)
Have you ever tried laxatives to lose weight? (3 pts.)
Have you ever tried a tapeworm to lose weight? (5 pts.)
Have you ever tried a machete to lose weight? (15 pts.)

Have you ever eaten a spoonful of sugar? (1 pt.)
A spoonful of Nutella? (5 pts.)
To make the medicine go down? (1 pt.)
To disguise the smell of alcohol? (3 pts.)
Have you ever eaten a spoonful of cinnamon? (1 pt.)

Have you ever bought food items that your friends were allergic to and flaunted them? (1 pt.)
Because you wanted to trick them into eating them? (2 pts.)
Just so you could steal their office supplies? (3 pts.)
Just so you could steal their boyfriends? (5 pts.)

What's the furthest you've ever driven ...
For fast food? (1 pt. for every 100 km)
For sex? (1 pt. for every 50 km)
For crack? (1 pt. for every 25 km)
Do you go to Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan to buy all your crack? (5 pts.)
Does Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan buy all their crack from you? (20 pts.)

Ever had a wild 'n' crazy road trip to Vegas? (3 pts.)
Tijuana? (5 pts.)
Australia (What the fuck? 15 pts. for defying physics)
Climax, Saskatchewan? (-1 pt.; 3 pts. if you climaxed while you were there)
To that giant easter egg? (1 pt.)
Because you have an egg fetish? (5 pts.)
Florida? (2 pts.)
Because you heard the girls there were loose? (5 pts.)
Are the girls there loose because of you? (10 pts.)

WORSHIPING APHRODITE'S TEMPLE

Aphrodite and Eros flutter through your mind and stoke the flames of love and sexual activity. Don't get burnt ...

Have you ever kissed a member of the opposite sex? (1 pt.)
The same sex? (1 pt.)
A kiss from a rose? (1 pt.)
A kiss on the lips? (2 pts.)
With tongue? (3 pts.)
With tonsils? (5 pts.)
Because you were paid for it? (1 pt. for every \$100 you earned)
Was it in a bar? (3 pts.)
Was it in a brothel? (5 pts.)
Was it in a play? (2 pts.)
Did you do undress rehearsals? (4 pts.)
Was it at the American Music Awards? (10 pts.)
Is your name Adam Lambert? (-20 pts.)
Ever kissed a man with his pants on the ground? (2 pts.)

Have you had sex? (1 pt.)
How many points do you get in the alphabet game? (1 pt. for each letter of their first names)

Have you ever received a hand job? (1 pt.)
Oral sex? (1 pt.)
Foot job? (2 pts.)
Titty fuck? (3 pts.)
Rim job? (4 pts.)
Did you have to interview for it? (3 pts.)
Was it recession-proof? (4 pts.)
Did your assets get liquidated? (5 pts.)

Have you touched breasts? (1 pt.)
Were they small ones? (1 pt.)
Were they yours? (-1 pt.)
Are you a dude? (-3 pts.)
Were you in Australia? (5 pts.)
Did you go outback? (2 pts.)
Did you go into the bush? (3 pts.)
Are you a bush man? (4 pts.)
Are you a bushwhacker? (5 pts.)

Have you ever cheated on a boyfriend or girlfriend? (5 pts.)

With their best friend? (6 pts.)
With Jessie's Girl? (7 pts.)
With Stacy's Mom? (3 pts. unless she was wearing a tube top, then 5 pts.)
Have you ever hit it and quit it? (5 pts.)
Because your sex machine ran out of batteries? (6 pts.)
Because your sex bomb exploded? (8 pts.)
Did you set it off just to leave the island? (10 pts., but only in an alternate timeline)

Have you had an orgasm? (1 pt.)
Have you ever ejaculated? (1 pt.)
Female ejaculated? (1 pt.)
Did you get arrested for filming it? (5 pts., but how could the cops even tell?)

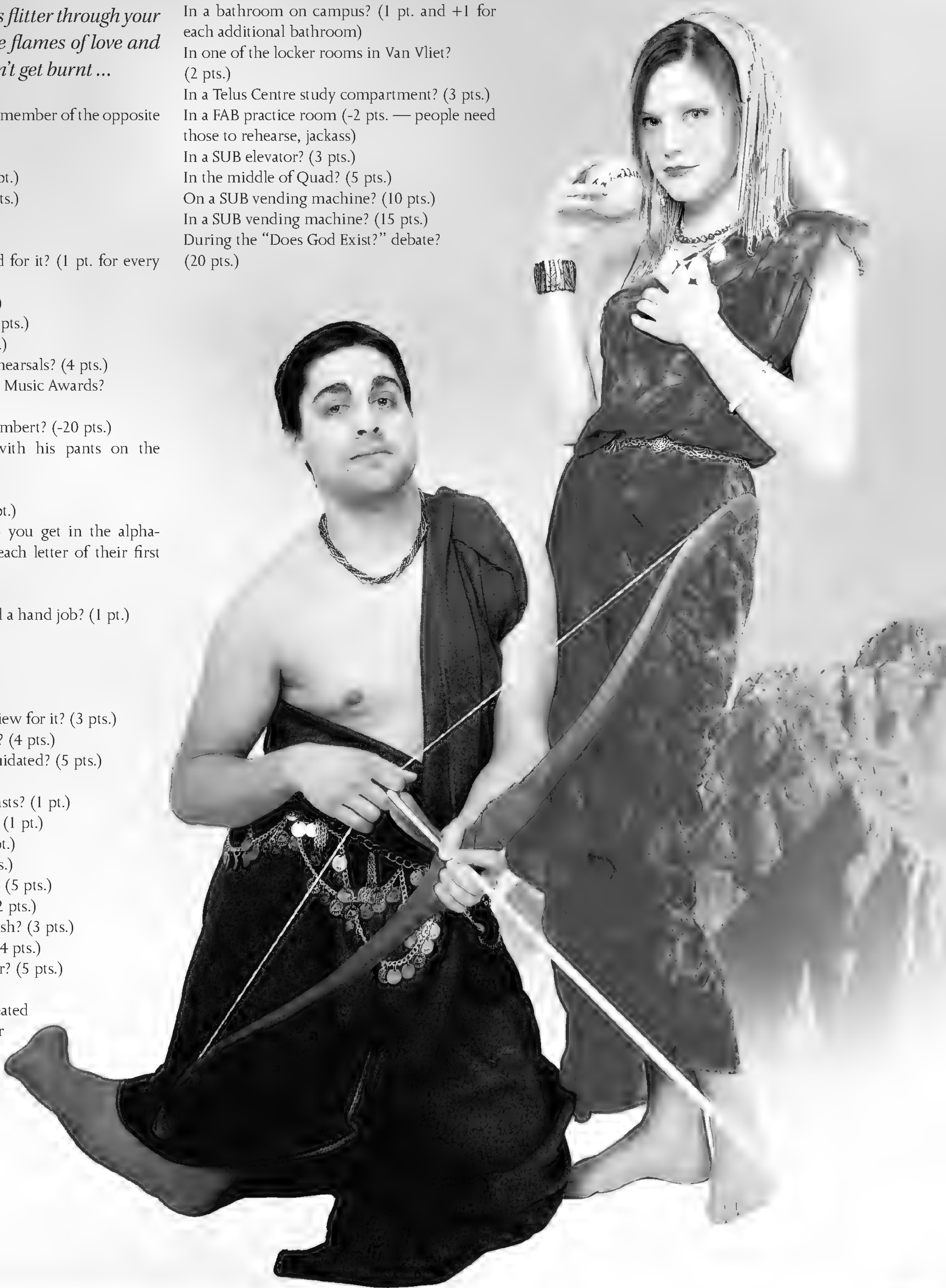
Have you ever had anal sex? (2 pts., unless you're Greek)
Male urethral sex? (10 pts. Ouch.)
Have you performed 69? (3 pts.)
Have you performed 71 (69 with two fingers up your ass)? (5 pts.)
Have you performed 68 ("you do me, and I'll owe you one")? (8 pts.)
Have you ever stopped midway through sex to perform long division? (2 pts.)

Have you ever had sex ...
On campus? (1 pt.)
In a lecture theatre? (3 pts.)
During a lecture? (10 pts.)
Was it the subject of the lecture? (15 pts.)
Was it with the professor? (20 pts.)
In a bathroom on campus? (1 pt. and +1 for each additional bathroom)
In one of the locker rooms in Van Vliet? (2 pts.)
In a Telus Centre study compartment? (3 pts.)
In a FAB practice room (-2 pts. — people need those to rehearse, jackass)
In a SUB elevator? (3 pts.)
In the middle of Quad? (5 pts.)
On a SUB vending machine? (10 pts.)
In a SUB vending machine? (15 pts.)
During the "Does God Exist?" debate? (20 pts.)

Have you ever contracted...
Herpes? (3 pts.)
Chlamydia? (2 pts.)
A bad case of shame? (-2 pts.)
Gonorrhea? (2 pts.)
Crabs? (2 pts. and you should've used Head and Shoulders)
A baby? (5 pts.)
A lazy baby-daddy? (-5 pts.)
Syphilis? (2 pts.)
HIV? (5 pts.)
Did you hold a benefit concert? (5 pts.)
Did the Foo Fighters headline it? (10 pts.)

Do you use birth control? (1 pt.)
Do you use...
Condoms? (1 pt.)
Are they lambskin? (2 pts.)
Dental dams? (2 pts.)
An existing pregnancy? (5 pts.)
Did you ever replace someone's birth control pills with Rockets? (2 pts.)
Have you ever douched? (-1 pt.)
Was it with Coke? (3 pts., +5 if there were Pop Rocks involved)
Have you ever broken a condom? (2 pts.)
Have you ever put a hole in a condom on purpose? (3 pts.)
Have you ever joined Safewalk just to get laid? (-20 pts.)
Did it work? (19 pts.)

You masturbate. (1 pt.)



Have you ever masturbated to porn videos? (2 pts.)
To the Internet (-1 pt., you cheap, uncreative bastard)
A porno mag? (2 pts., and kudos on the old-school wank)
National Geographic? (3 pts.)
Manga? (5 pts.)
A family photo album? (-5 pts., you sick fuck.)
Wait, was it just to your really hot second cousin? (7 pts. and all is forgiven)

Have you ever thought about your significant other while masturbating? (1 pt.)
Someone other than your S.O.? (2 pts.)
You S.O.'s sibling? (2 pts.)
Your S.O.'s parents? (3 pts.)
Your parents? (-5 pts.)
Someone famous? (1 pt.)
Someone in one of your classes? (1 pt.)
A co-worker? (1 pt.)
In front of them? (3 pts.)
The Dalai Lama? (5 pts.)
The "Pants on the Ground" guy? (-10 pts.)

Have you ever had sex with someone with piercing blue eyes? (1 pt.)
With a genital piercing? (2 pts.)
With an anal piercing? (3 pts.)
With a banal piercing? (1 pts.)
With Conal Pierce? (-5 pts.)

Have you ever burst into song in the middle of sex? (1 pt.)
Dance? (2 pts.)
Was it a show tune? (2 pts.)
Did you get a jazz-hand job? (5 pts.)

Have you ever bragged about big your dick is? (2 pts.)
Really? (-2 pts.)
Have you ever bragged about how big your breasts are? (2 pts.)
Have you ever bragged about how big y o u r

ovaries are? (-1 pt.)
Have you ever lied about how big any of the above body parts are? (1 pt.)
Have you ever bragged about how small any of the above body parts are? (1 pity pt.)

Have you ever visited a bathhouse? (1 pt.)
Was it accidentally because you really just wanted a bath? (-1 pt.)
Did you still end up taking a bath in something other than water? (3 pts.)

Have you ever cooked with "natural ingredients" (see: human semen)? (3 pts.)
Freshly harvested? (3 pts.)
Ever served it to your mother-in-law? (10 pts.)
Told her the tangy taste was buttermilk? (-5 pts., you fool — no one drinks buttermilk!)

Have you ever been to a strip club? (1 pt.)
Did you put money in a stripper's thong? (2 pts.)
Ever stolen money from a stripper's thong? (5 pts.)
From in between a stripper's tits? (7 pts.)
Did you reinvest? (3 pts.)
Did you spend it on the lunch buffet? (0 pts. but you'll get the shits in the morning)
Have you ever worked at a strip club? (3 pts.)
As a bouncer? (1 pt.)
Did you still get naked? (5 pts.)

Have you ever answered a phone call during sex? (1 pt.)
Made a phone call? (3 pts.)
Sent a text message? (2 pts.)
Did it say "wish you were here"? (5 pts.)
Did they show up before you were finished? (5 pts. for having the best network)
Have you ever live-tweeted sex? (1 pt.)
Did you use a hash tag? (1 pt.)
Did you get retweeted? (2 pts., -1 pt. if it was by Mack Male)
Did it get you followers? (3 pts.)
Did it become a trending topic? (5 pts.)

Have you ever had sex with Tiger Woods? (20 pts.)
Was it up to par? (25 pts.)
Did he use his three-wood? (30 pts.)
Was it a hole-in-one? (40 pts.)
Did Elin Nordegren come after you with a golf club? (50 pts.)

Have you ever stopped midway through sex? (1 pt.)
For "personal reasons"? (3 pts.)
Did Zach Fentiman take your place? (5 pts.)

Have you ever interrupted anyone having sex? (1 pt.)
Did you stay? (2 pts.), or did you go? (-2 pts.)
Did Kanye West ever interrupt you during sex? (1 pt.)
Did he let you finish? (10 pts.)

Have you ever had a photo in a newspaper? (1 pt.)
In a magazine? (2 pts.)
Have you ever posed topless in a magazine? (3 pts.)
Have you ever posed nude in a magazine? (5 pts.)
On the front of a textbook? (7 pts.)
On the front of a Sears catalogue? (-2 pts.)

Did you join the Samarasekera Response Team? (-3 pts.)
Was it to get laid? (5 pts.)
With Indira? (10 pts.)
Did it work? (Indira grants you 10 pts.; the Purity Test doesn't recognize them)
Are you a white male? (-18 pts.)

THE BLOODY SACRIFICE

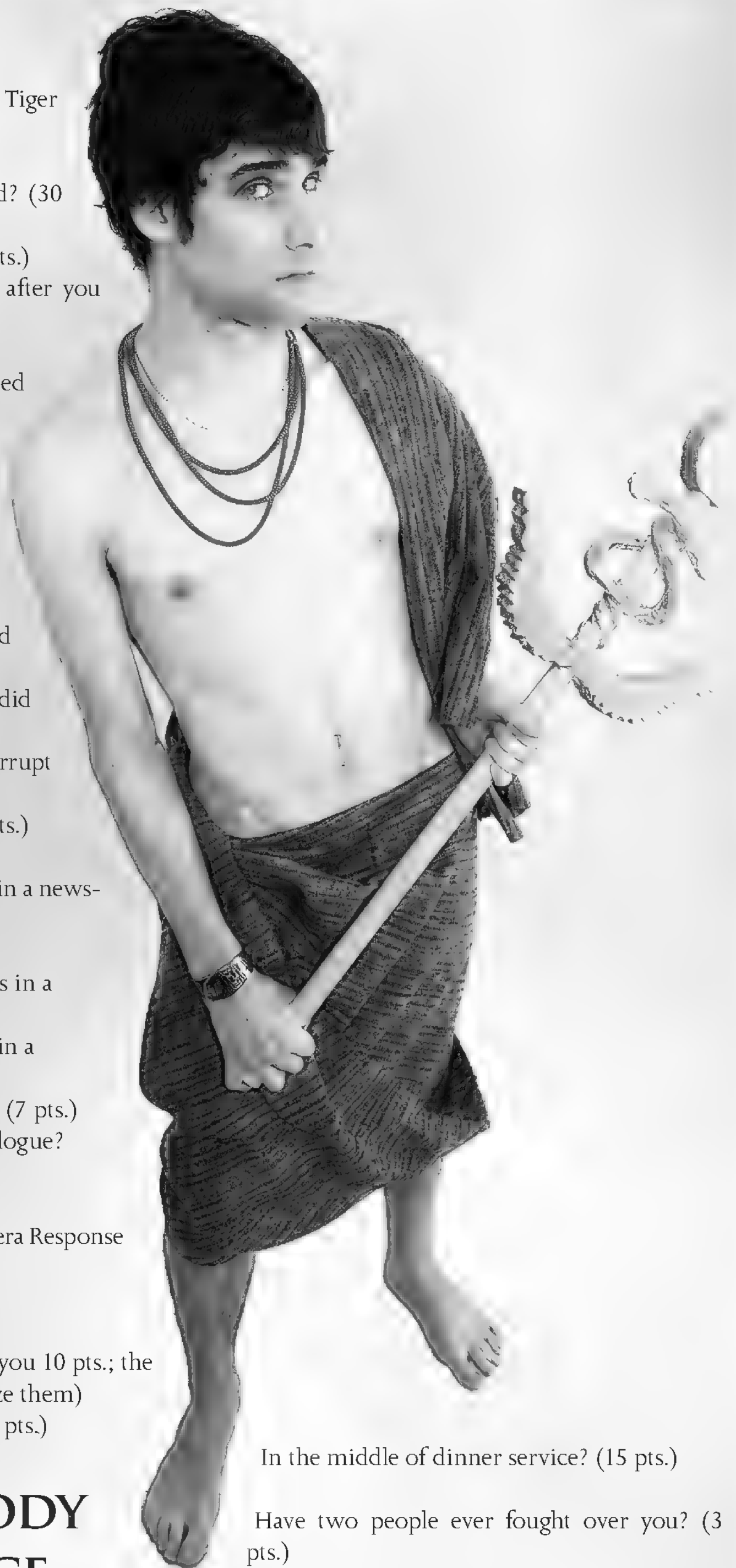
Fall under the rage of Ares or temper your steel with the cool wisdom of Athena. Your battle plan is completely up to you ...

Have you ever slapped anyone in the face? (1 pt.)
To challenge them to a duel? (3 pts.)
As foreplay? (2 pts.)
Have you ever punched anyone in the face? (2 pts.)
Have you ever been punched in the face? (2 pts.)
For a damn good reason? (2 pts.)
Did you take it like a grizzled Russian prostitute? (3 pts.)
Was there blood drawn? (4 pts.)

Have you ever pied a political figure in the face? (10 pts.)
Was the pie made from "natural ingredients"? (15 pts.)

Have you ever incurred the wrath of the Gods? (1 pt.)
Did it end up destroying an entire Caribbean nation? (10 pts.)
Did you smile smugly at the TV? (20 pts.)
From a cruise ship? (50 pts.)

Have you ever killed a man? (10 pts.)
Have you ever killed a woman? (10 pts.)
Have you ever killed a hermaphrodite? (-1 pt. We have few enough of them as is.)
Did you use an enchanted weapon granted by the gods? (3 pts.)
Did you use a ladle? (5 pts.)
Was it in the middle of a soup kitchen? (10 pts.)



In the middle of dinner service? (15 pts.)

Have two people ever fought over you? (3 pts.)
Have two armies ever fought over you? (10 pts.)
Was a Trojan Horse involved? (5 pts.)
Was a Trojan ultra-thin involved? (-1 pt.)

Have you ever been declared legally dead? (20 pts.)
As a result of violence? (4 pts.)
As a result of partying too hard? (9 pts.)
As a result of voyaging to the underworld to fetch your dead girlfriend? (19 pts.)

Have you ever faked your own death? (1 pt.)
To avoid your significant other? (2 pts.)
To avoid writing an exam? (2 pts.)
To avoid attending someone else's funeral? (5 pts.)

SECRETS OF THE NIGHT

Between the clever trickeries of Hermes and the virginal temptations of Artemis, there's enough stealth here that a mortal could be lost forever ...

Have you ever dined-and-dashed? (1 pt.)
Are you an Edmonton Oiler? (-13 pts.)
In bed? (2 pt.)
Did you leave your jacket/purse? (3 pt.)
With your ID? (5 pt.)

Do you illegally download music? (1 pt.)
Do you illegally download movies? (2 pts.)
Do you illegally download porn? (3 pts.)
Is it Pedobear approved? (-10 pts., you sick fuck)
Would you download a car were it possible? (5 pts.)
Would it be a hybrid? (-5 pts.)



Have you ever been kicked out of a bar? (1 pt.)
 Because you were too rowdy? (1 pt.)
 Because you were too drunk? (2 pts.)
 Because you were unconscious? (3 pts.)
 Because you stole the tip jar? (5 pts.)
 Because you stole a Corona salt shaker bottle? (1 pt.)
 Because you thought it was actually a Corona? (-1 pt.)
 Did you drink it anyway? (5 pts.)
 Have you stolen a bottle of liquor from behind the bar? (5 pts.)
 Did you chug it on the dance floor? (8 pts.)
 Then did you break it on the dance floor? (10 pts.)

Have you ever played dirty word Scrabble? (1 pt.)
 Strip poker? (2 pts.)
 Strip Go Fish? (3 pts.)
 Strip Pop-O-Matic Trouble? (4 pts.)
 Strip *Star Fox 64*? (I can't let you take those points, Fox)

Have you ever had a fake ID? (1 pt.)
 Even though you're of age, but because the photo is more attractive than you? (-1 pt.)

Have you ever woken up...
 Next to a stranger? (1 pt.)
 On a lawn? (2 pts.)
 In another city? (3 pts.)
 In a different outfit? (4 pts.)
 In a shower? (1 pts.)
 Was it running? (2 pts.)
 Was it golden? (5 pts.)
 With a tattoo? (5 pts.)
 With a piercing? (5 pts.)
 With a tattoo of someone's phone number? (8 pts.)

With someone else's glasses? (1 pt.)
 With someone else's pants? (2 pts.)
 With someone else's condom? (5 pts.)
 With your pants on the ground? (2 pts.)

Have you ever been arrested? (3 pts.)
 Did the officer read you the Miranda rights? (1 pt.)
 Did you ask if Miranda was hot? (2 pts.)
 Did you try and steal the handcuffs? (5 pts.)
 Have you ever gone streaking? (1 pt.)
 Through a field? (1 pt.)
 Through a football game? (3 pts.)
 Through a golf course? (5 pts.)
 Through an elementary school? (10 pts.)

Have you ever stolen...
 From a convenience store? (1 pt.)
 From your school? (1 pt.)
 From a friend? (2 pts.)
 From your parents? (3 pts.)
 A young girl's heart? (-5 pts., pervert)
 Did you get caught? (-1 pt.)

Have you ever stolen \$550 from every student? (10 pts.)
 Did you modify the market just to get it? (25 pts.)

Have you ever punched someone's V-card? (3 pts.)
 Punched someone to get their V-card? (5 pts.)
 Punched 10 V-cards? (15 pts., and the 11th is free!)

Have you ever made like Zeus and assumed alternate forms for sex? (1 pt.)
 Was it drag? (1 pt.)
 Was it a sex change? (5 pts.)
 Was it lycanthropy? (10 pts.)
 Did your partner still choose the sparkly vampire instead? (-10 pts.)

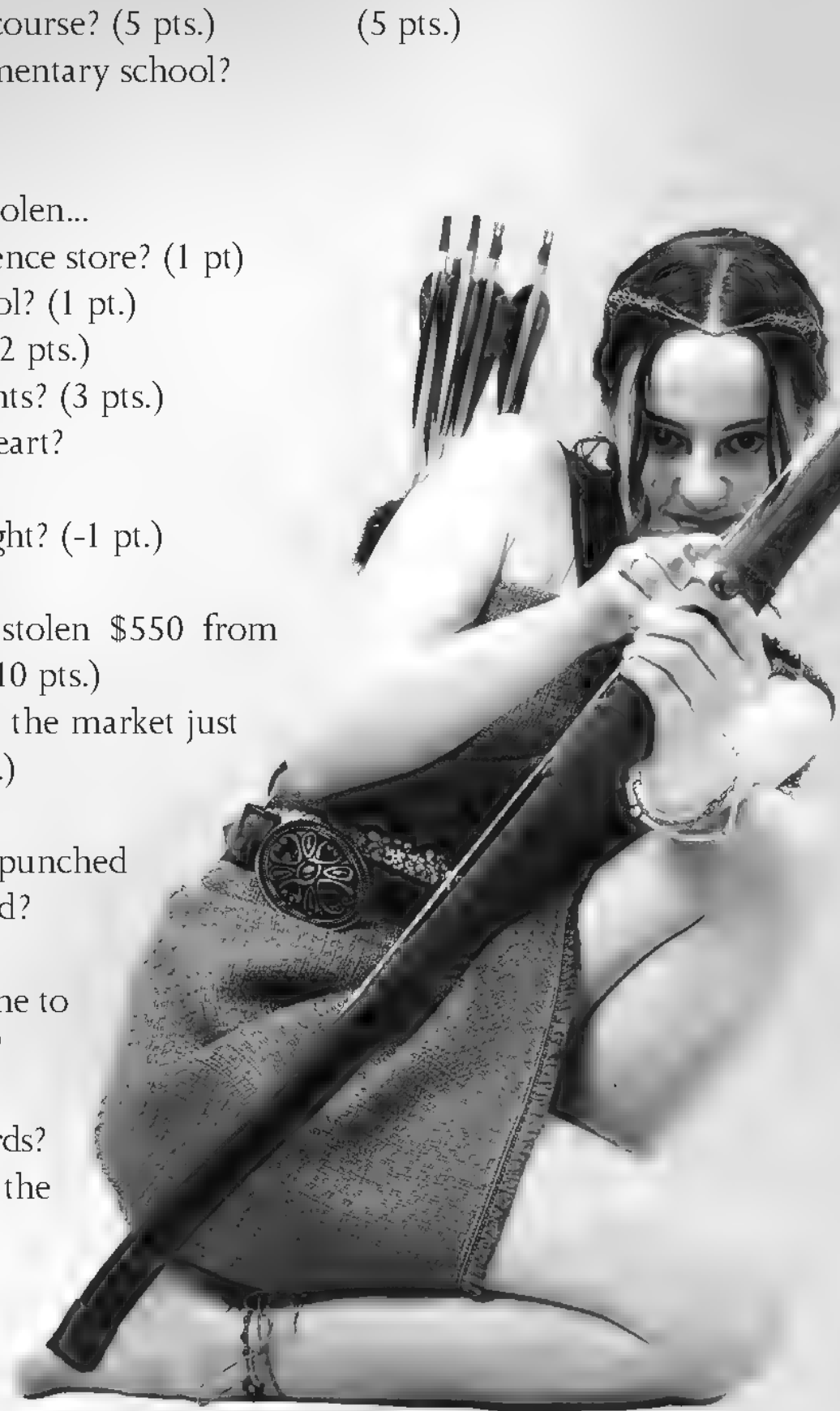
Have you ever tricked someone into having sex with you? (3 pts.)
 By telling them you were a god? (5 pts.)
 A demi-god? (3 pts.)
 Your own identical twin? (3 pts.)
 A celebrity? (3 pts.)
 A D-list celebrity? (2 pts.)
 Was it with a D-list celebrity? (5 pts.)

ZEUS' LIGHTNING BONUS ROUND

How many purity tests have you taken? (1 pt. for every one)
 Did you announce your score on Facebook? (1 pt.)
 Twitter? (-1 pt.)
 Blippy? (-5 pts.)
 Have you ever had a negative score on the Purity Test before? (-100 pts. Scarred for life!)
 Have you ever used the Purity Test as a checklist for improving your score? (5 pts.)
 Have you ever hooked up with some-

one based on their Purity Test score? (5 pts.)
 Did you do things that would've earned you extra points? (0 pts. Better luck next year!)
 Have you ever tried to pass off someone else's Purity Test score as your own? (-10 pts.)
 Was it still lower than your actual score? (Here, have a toffee)

Are you the Opinion Editor and you wrote half the test and you STILL didn't get beyond the second-lowest scoring category? (350 pts.)
 Nice try, David. (-350 pts.)



LET THE FATES DECIDE YOUR PATH

VESTAL VIRGIN (0-75)

Purity? You've got the gold medal. Your spotless white toga and prim sandals are exquisite examples of the pristine goodness that flows through your veins. It's not quite enough to get you onto Olympus, as the vast majority of the gods are a little too randy for your tastes, but never fear — there'll always be a place for you on the Elysian Fields, land of eternal dreariness and unchanging boredom. But boy, you sure are pure.

Your patron deities are: Artemis, Vesta, Hephaestus
Gatewayers in this category: Alix Kemp, Ross Vincent, Katie Austin, Evan Daum, Lance Mudryk

ACOLYTE OF PAN (76-150)

Pass the pomegranate — you're not above the occasional temptation. You'll even occasionally dip into the wineskin, or duck into the woods for seven minutes in paradise with a drunk nymph or horny satyr. But don't rest on your laurels too much — you've got plenty more ground to cover before the Gods recognize your exploits. You're heading for Olympus, but in one of the low-income-housing atriums they've got there. It's pretty nice, but it could be so much better.

Your patron deities are: Hermes, Apollo, Athena
Gatewayers in this category: David Johnston, Evan Mudryk, Lucas Wagner, Jonn Kmech, Madeline Smith, Kelsey Tanasiuk

TROJAN WARRIOR (150-250)

Welcome to the heights of Olympus, you drunken Greek. Urns have been sculpted to recognize your fabulous parties. You've docked your longboat in a Cretan harbour quite a few times, if you know what I mean. The Earth has occasionally shook under your feet as your name is whispered among the slaves. Of course, in several eons, your sagas will be forgotten and bastardized by the Romans into a Lite version of themselves — but until then, you're golden. Like the apple of discord you're currently munching.

Your patron deities are: Ares, Poseidon, Hera
Gatewayers in this category: Sarah Stead, Aaron Yeo, Nick Frost, Pete Yee

GOD/GODDESS OF ALTERED STATES (250+)

The bad news is, you're going straight to Hades. The good news is, they've got wicked awesome parties down there. There's no drink you haven't drunk, no drug you haven't dragged, no wrongdoing that hasn't been wrung out of your eternal soul. Dionysus salutes you and recognizes your place atop the pantheon of parties. When you die, a special torture will be designed for you to commend your badass ways.

Your patron deities are: Dionysus, Aphrodite, Zeus
Gatewayers in this category: Mike Kendrick, Jon Taves, Lauren Alston, Hannah Cochran, Sean Steels



social
intercourse**White Cowbell Oklahoma**

With *Give 'em Hell Boys* and *Preying Saints*
Saturday, February 20 at 9 p.m.
Pawn Shop (10551-82 Ave.)
\$10 at Blackbyrd and Megatunes
\$12 at the door

It was a cold winter night when a friend and I stumbled into the Sidetrack on a weekend-long bar-hopping binge. It was intended to be a brief stop on our alcohol-fuelled journey, but as we belled up to the bar, the travelling circus that is WCO walked onstage. We were rendered speechless by the rock 'n' roll spectacle that unfolded in front of us: chainsaws, fire, and nude women shared the stage with no less than four guitarists. They put on a live show that would put GWAR to shame, which is no easy feat, and they will be collecting donations for their *Tits Out For Haiti* campaign. If seeing pictures of starving children sleeping on the ground isn't enough to separate you and your money, maybe a nice pair of DDs will do the trick.

Chixdiggit

With *the Old Wives* and *Zero Cool*
Friday, February 12 at 9 p.m.
New City Compound (10081 Jasper Ave.)
\$15 at New City or Megatunes

There are those who dismiss pop punk as a juvenile dilution of a rebellious genre, but personally, I can't think of anything more rebellious than singing songs about love and girls in a genre weighed down with social commentary. For those who prefer The Ramones to Discharge, I suggest heading out to see these Calgarians, who are out of hibernation to play a rare local show. Oh, New City, how I love you — will you be my Valentine?

Wilco

With *Califone*
Monday, February 15 at 7:30 p.m.
Jubilee Auditorium (11455-87 Ave.)
\$38 at Ticketmaster

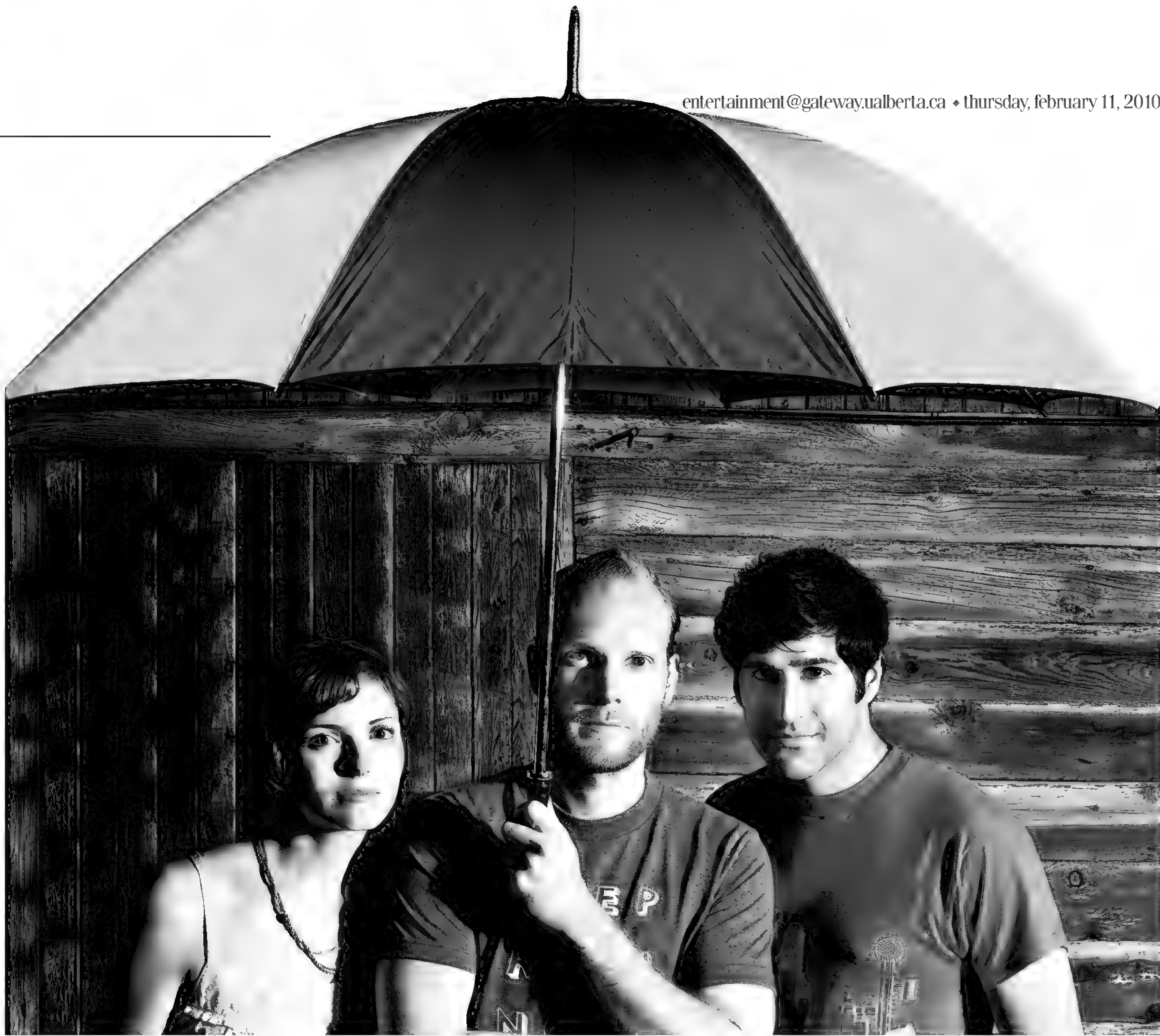
There is this little-known band coming to town during Reading Week. I always enjoy giving a nod to up-and-coming acts that may struggle to fill seats at their show. Nothing is more embarrassing than playing to three people, especially since they're probably family. Just to help this fledgling band out, I suggest that you head out and buy a ticket to this show that isn't likely to already be sold out.

The Swiftys at Winterfest

With *Jessica Heine*, *Andrea House* and *Chris Smith*, and *The Deep Dark Woods*
Runs February 12 at 6 p.m. and February 13 all day
Norwood Legion (11150-82 St.)
\$22-42 at tixonthesquare.ca

Back in the day, before he exploded to stardom, I sold merch for Corb Lund on a couple of his tours. It was a wonderful way to see one of my favourite groups play live every night. The best part of the unpaid gig was discovering great new bands that I didn't know before. One night in the rowdy college town of Olds, I went on a bender with Grant from The Swiftys at the local cowboy bar. Cowgirls, cold beer, and a mechanical bull added up to a crazy night. I was a wild young cowboy at the time and their brand of outlaw music could have been the soundtrack to my life. Another Corb Lund protégé, Tim Hus, headlines the Saturday night of this two day indoor folk festival. Did I tell you about the time that Tim and I went on a bender in Castor?

DUSTIN BLUMHAGEN
¿Dónde está la carne de vacuno?



Former Albertan hurtin' for his hometown

Nils Edenloff explains how his once and again homebase of Edmonton has shaped his songwriting

musicpreview

The Rural Alberta Advantage

With *The Wooden Sky* and *The Great Bloomers*
Saturday, February 13 at 5 p.m. and 9 p.m.
The Pawn Shop (10549-82 Avenue)
Both shows sold out

EVAN MUDRYK
Arts & Entertainment Legend

Despite how advantageous it may appear to live in rural Alberta, Nils Edenloff — lead singer and songwriter for the Rural Alberta Advantage and a native Edmontonian — left the province for the biggest city in Canada. And while it wasn't necessarily the easiest decision for the former U of A computer engineering student, it has begun to pay off, with 2009 being a breakthrough year for the Toronto-based group.

Despite the band's recent success, Edenloff wasn't confident that he would eventually achieve the success that he has now, favouring the traditional and conservative Albertan educational path to following his musical ambitions.

"I guess I always liked stable things in a way [...] and engineering was sort of more of a stable background," says Edenloff on why he decided to study engineering over music while attending university. Even though he'd grown up with music, he never imagined it as a realistic career possibility, despite now having played around 100 shows in the past year across North America, most of them outside of Canada.

"I knew I was good at math, and science just made sense to me. Though music equally made sense to me, I was just afraid of taking the plunge and becoming a musician, so I pushed it off for 10 years," Edenloff recalls with good humour.

Edenloff left Edmonton for Toronto in 2002, where he founded The Rural Alberta Advantage and eventually produced *Hometowns*, the RAA's first and only album to date. Their music

deals with feelings of having to move on, but also reflects on the way things used to be.

Before attending the U of A, Edenloff and his family moved to Fort McMurray when he was 13, which at the time, he says, "was the last thing in the world that I could have possibly wanted to happen."

"I grew up kind of dorky and stuff. I didn't really fit in that much, so when I made the jump from Grade 6 to Grade 7, I was like 'all right, it's a new start!' It just felt like the year was coming together [...] and then my parents decided we were all going to move up to Fort McMurray and, again, I had to start over."

"I was at a point where writing the songs, the Alberta references were just coming to me in a way. There is a certain amount of leaving the place where you've grown up and moving on to another one. Just memories that you have from there."

NILS EDENLOFF
THE RURAL ALBERTA ADVANTAGE

Growing up in the northern Alberta oil town wasn't what he planned, but it's clear that his time there had a profound effect on his music, especially when one considers the fact that the album has the specifically pluralized title *Hometowns*.

"I've always considered both Edmonton and Fort McMurray as my home. I was born in Edmonton, but [there were] those crucial ideological years growing up in Fort McMurray. Those years shape to a large degree the type of person you end up being," says Edenloff.

Although the RAA's music is about remembering where you've been, there is also a quality of where you are now. For example, "The

Ballad of the RAA," with lyrics referencing the shift from Rockies to the Great Lakes, and Garneau to Dundas.

"I guess as much as the songs are about leaving Alberta, there is a certain amount of moving to Toronto that shows up in it, too," says Edenloff of his current hometown.

As for now, Edenloff's just glad to be touring again and playing in Edmonton for the second time in as many years. The RAA have a song titled "Edmonton" on *Hometowns*, which he says is, in some ways, about the difficult time before he left the city, but explains that it's not necessarily as simple as that.

"I guess ["Edmonton"] was just born out of being torn. My friends were leaving Edmonton [and I was asking myself] should I stay or should I go? [...] I'm not even sure at certain times what all the songs really mean in a way, because I think there's this aspect where you're just channelling something," says Edenloff.

"I was at a point where writing the songs, the Alberta references were just coming to me in a way. There is a certain amount of leaving the place where you've grown up and moving on to another one. Just memories that you have from there.

"We're working on the next record, and there are still a lot of Alberta references that are popping up, and that's not going to go away," adds Edenloff about where the band might be heading in the next year or so.

"I'm not sure that, going forward, there will no longer be any Alberta references — I can't promise that. But I do have a feeling that a certain amount of Alberta will always be in the songs that I write, whether or not they're so obvious [as they are now]."

He also hopes to play a new song about the Alberta capital during the Edmonton show.

"We're going to hopefully be playing a bunch of new songs during the Edmonton shows, and there's definitely another Edmonton song that we'll be playing [...] as long as I don't lose my voice. It's been getting a good response. So fingers crossed," he adds, laughing.




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GRAND RE-OPENING

MARCH 17th, 2010

A Beautiful way to spend Valentine's Day



SUPPLIED: DOUGLAS DOLLARS

theatrepreview

Beautiful Thing

Directed by Justen Bennett
Written by Jonathan Harvey
Starring Doran Werner, Maura Frunza, Amelia Duplessis, Joel Taras, Randy Brososky, and Ian Corry
Walterdale Playhouse
(10322-83 Ave.)
Runs February 10-20 at 8 p.m. nightly,
2 p.m. matinee on February 14
\$12-16 at tixonthesquare.ca

CHARLIE CRITTENDEN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

It's not sugar-coated and it's coming to you just in time for Valentine's Day. *Beautiful Thing*, directed by Justen Bennett, depicts a sparking love between two young men in a working-class London neighbourhood.

"It portrays this story in a very real way," explains Bennett. "Instead of being this romantic love story where the two main characters just happen to meet in an elevator, or these goofy little happy hijinks happen, these characters are facing a real situation."

The reality is grey apartments with lives slotted in alongside beatings and splintering families. Humour and

anger vent the pressure. Regardless of the tough situation, however, the two young men discover their mutual crushes in a gradual happiness. Though Bennett avoids the elevator rom-com stereotypes, he notes the importance of portraying a gay love story. When the play was written in the early '90s, the idea was new.

"As a gay man, all Harvey [the playwright] was seeing in media were representations of his culture with stories of oppression, of hatred, of self-loathing," says Bennett. "*Beautiful Thing* was one of the first big plays to actually show two male characters falling in love, and not have a whole bunch of horrible [...] deaths and agony around it. At the time, it was very edgy."

For Bennett, the play is now less about edge and more about story. Asserting the equality of different love stories amounts to a political act for some, but Bennett is approaching the play by advocating for it in the spirit of Valentine's Day, rather than from the soapbox.

"Regardless of the fact that this play wasn't chosen for a political message — it doesn't really have a political message, it's not pushing an agenda by any means, it's just telling a story — some people will put the agenda on top of the play [...] The very idea of seeing anything about homosexuality will be an issue for

them, and will be political. [But] for a lot of people, it's not going to be political. It's just going to be a story. It wasn't based on, 'Oh, well, we need to get some more gay presence out here.' It had nothing to do with that [...] We've got Valentine's Day coming up, so if you want a nice way to spend Valentine's Day, it's a great love story."

The apolitical nature of the play comes in part from its small scale. *Beautiful Thing* doesn't depict rallies or speeches, and the hardscabble lives of the characters remain. Despite the happiness of the two characters, not much happens. Bennett doesn't shy away from the realities, but sees them as proving the value of the plot.

"Things don't change a whole lot. The world doesn't shift. They're still going to make fun of each other, they're still going to be rough with each other, but in small ways, they've changed — they've become more accepting, they've become more aware of themselves [...] One of the great messages from the play is that, because they're in this rough situation, it presents a spark of hope," Bennett says.

"It's evolved from this risk-taking story to a love story. At this point, to me — and to most people, I think, in North America — it's simply a love story, regardless of who's involved."

Silver medal for the new Zinc restaurant

diningreview

Zinc

At the Alberta Gallery of Art
(2 Sir Winston Churchill Sq.)
Tues.-Weds. 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., 5-9 p.m.
Thurs.-Fri. 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., 5-11 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., 5-11 p.m.
Sun. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
(780) 392-2507

DUSTIN BLUMHAGEN
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Walking into Zinc, I was immediately a little disappointed by the lacklustre design. It is, after all, housed in the controversial new Art Gallery of Alberta building. The restaurant was still quite busy on a late Friday afternoon, but I was immediately led to my seat. My server explained to me that they are still using a partial menu, since they'd just recently opened. I was happy about this because everything that they were serving sounded delicious and it would make my choice a little easier with fewer options.

While deciding, I ordered a simple and delicious non-alcoholic cranberry juice and soda. Out of curiosity, I browsed the wine list, finding that the majority were from British Columbia. Unable to decide between the caribou/elk un-burger with saskatoon berry aioli, or the striploin, I asked my server what he would recommend. He said that the steak was the highlight of their afternoon menu. Eager to finally find a decent piece of steak in Edmonton, I accepted his recommendation and enjoyed some delicious fresh baked brioche with herb goat cheese. Never have I enjoyed a piece of bread so much. I was still buttering my last piece when my meal arrived.

Despite the full restaurant, the meal arrived in record time. Topping the striploin were crisp onions, wild mushrooms in a tomato ragout, and a dollop of caviar. There were crushed potatoes on the side. The portion was a decent size for \$22. Usually, I find that the fancier the restaurant, the smaller the portions are. As a food lover, I expect to leave feeling uncomfortably stuffed. Though, I have been warned that

their dinner menu is significantly more expensive.

Growing up on a ranch, I learned from a young age to have high standards for beef. For some reason, Edmonton always lets me down when it comes to steak. The striploin, despite being praised by the waiter, was a lousy cut of meat that was definitely overcooked. When I order medium rare, I expect medium rare. It was a tough cut, which was a disappointment.

Despite that, every other part of the meal was wonderful. I had never eaten caviar before, so that was an interesting experience. I was pleasantly full when I was done, and after contemplating dessert for 10 minutes, I finally had to admit defeat. The flourless chocolate cake sounded appealing, as did the wonderful desserts that he told me would be arriving over the next few weeks. Overall, it was very obvious that Zinc is still working out various kinks, but despite this, it still provides a good meal for a decent price in a relaxed environment. I will definitely return in a few weeks to sample the additions to the menu.

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Zombie survival advice from Down Under

Aussie hip-hop group Hilltop Hoods bring their beats north, share their feelings on Auto-Tune

musicpreview

Hilltop Hoods

Friday, February 12 at 9 p.m.
Pawn Shop (10551-82 Ave.)
\$20.75 at Ticketmaster

EMMA BROOK
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Hilltop Hoods: they're a hip-hop group, Australian music innovators, as well as ... zombie experts? Well, they may not be experts exactly, but they do sing about zombie attacks on their track "Parade of the Dead" and they have some good advice for surviving any confrontations with the undead.

"Grab the sharpest object you can and aim for the brain. The brain always kills them the quickest. You can't be going for body blows. Hide out somewhere or just wear some dark and white makeup, and pretend to be a zombie yourself and try to escape that way," Daniel Smith, a.k.a. Emcee Pressure explains.

This group from Adelaide have been called pioneers in Australian hip-hop and the country's most influential band of the last decade, but you won't see them running up on stage and interrupting a blonde country singer's acceptance speech. They'd much rather help out other artists rather than put them down. In 2008, the group formed their own label, Golden Era Records with creativity in mind, and a mandate to help other artists develop their music.

"[We never] wanted to take over the Australian hip-hop market and sign every good act. We just wanted to create our own sort of small family at Golden Era, of either people we knew or people whose music we liked, respected, or [...] we thought needed a hand up."



Emcees Suffa and Pressure met in high school and were introduced to DJ Debris by a mutual friend. Even the artist who creates their album artwork has close ties to the group.

"He's a guy called John Engelhardt. He's actually a friend from high school of ours. He's a really talented artist, and we just always got him to do sketches for us," says Smith.

Engelhardt has even created a cartoon character called Armageddon for the group, who is featured on each album.

"We tried to modernize him with this album. The title *State of the Art* obviously, and part of the concept of the title, was that we wanted to keep our music current, and modern, and relevant so we can keep connecting with people. We went with sort of that more futuristic look. We kind of spruced him up to be like a half robot for this one," explains Smith.

Although their cartoon character is half robot, the vocals on their new tracks definitely aren't.

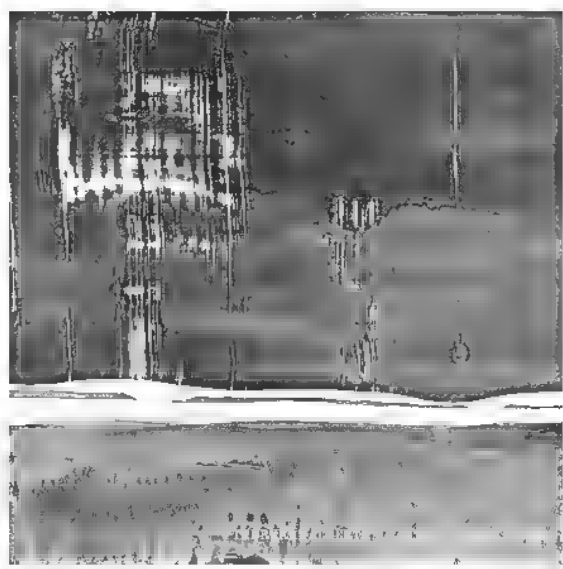
Smith explains that although using Auto-Tune isn't Hilltop Hoods' style, they don't discredit other artists who choose to use it.

"I'm not going to sit here and say that everyone who uses Auto-Tune is whack, but it's definitely not our sound. That's more sort of that club oriented, pop driven hip-hop. We don't really fuck with that sort of hip-hop, but each to their own. That ain't us and we certainly aren't messing with Auto-Tune [...] [Our sound], it's kind of that classic sort of mid-'90s sound, but with a much more modern twist."

Right now, the group is looking forward to spending some time in the northern hemisphere, and starting their Canadian tour.

"We're really looking forward to coming on back to Canada, and doing our own show, and are looking forward to seeing people there."

Check them out at the Pawn Shop, and don't forget your machetes in case a zombie infestation happens to break out.



albumreview

The Rural Alberta Advantage

Hometowns
Saddle Creek

GRANT CRAWFORD
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Edmonton is an easy place to hate in the winter: the cold, the isolation, and the midterms. But Edmonton in the summer is a place worth being, especially if you grew up here, because you never forget your hometown, no matter how much you hate it. That's because a hometown is so much more than just a place — it's people and moments. It's your memories, your first kiss, your elementary school, and all your friends from along the way. Although The Rural Alberta Advantage are a Toronto-based band, their songs are as much about longing for a prairie place that no longer exists, as they are about anything specific.

The bands frontman Nils Edenloff, a U of A alumnus, grew up in Alberta and his reedy voice along with his wistful lyrics paint an evocative and joyous picture of growing up in Alberta. On "Don't Haunt This Place," the frantic drumming of Paul Banwatt and the delicate harmonies of Amy Cole support Edenloff as he croons longingly for "the things we wish would come back / because we need this oh so bad." If you've ever left somewhere, you probably know what he's talking about. The Rural Alberta Advantage can make you yearn for Edmonton, even if you're already here. When they come to town this Friday, you should think about being there — it will most certainly be a joyous homecoming.



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Input from the Community

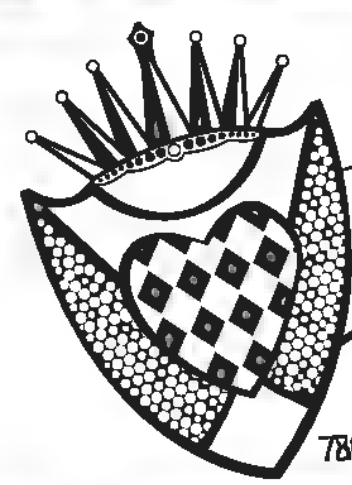
The search for Vice-President (External Relations) is currently underway. In consultation with the Chair of the Board of Governors, Mr. Brian Heidecker, President Samarasekera has asked for the establishment of an Advisory Search Committee to advise on the selection of a Vice-President (External Relations).

UAPPOL policy provides that members of the university community have an opportunity to contribute to the search process. Individuals are welcome to express their views on the priorities of Vice-President (External Relations); including current issues, leadership, and the future direction of the Office of Vice-President (External Relations). An anonymized summary of the feedback will be provided to the Advisory Search Committee during the search process. The Committee invites you to submit your comments and/or suggestions, in confidence, by 4:30 pm, Monday, February 22, 2010 to:

President Indira Samarasekera
c/o Jackie Wright, Secretary to the Advisory Search Committee
3-1 University Hall
University of Alberta, T6G 2J9
phone: (780) 492-9592
email: jackie.wright@ualberta.ca
fax: (780) 492-9265

Please note that the membership of the Advisory Search Committee will be confirmed by February 12, 2010 and posted on the President's website at www.president.ualberta.ca.

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SAT
FEB
20

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Nevermore examines the mysteries of Poe

Playwright Jon Christenson says he won't kiss Poe's ass just because he's dead

theatrepreview

Nevermore: The Imaginary
Life & Mysterious Death of
Edgar Allan Poe

Written, directed, and composed by
Jonathan Christenson

Starring Shannon Blanchet, Sheldon
Etler, Beth Graham, Ryan Parker,
Garett Ross, Vanessa Sabourin, and
Scott Shpeley

Runs February 13-21, Tuesday-
Saturdays at 8:00 pm, Matinees on
Sundays Feb. 14 & 21 and Saturday
Feb. 20 at 2 p.m.

Catalyst Theatre
(8529 Gateway Blvd.)

\$28 for students at tixonthesquare.ca
or (780) 420-1757

EVAN MUDRYK
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Edgar Allan Poe is well known for being a tortured artist and tragic figure during his time, which makes his life an especially suitable subject for a semi-biographical play. But writer, director, and composer Jonathan Christenson says he's careful of not being *too* careful when adapting the life of the famous short story writer and poet to the stage.

"The thing about Poe is, he lived 200 years ago, and one of the things I find often with treatments of historical figures is that sometimes they can be overly respectful and reverential [...] Poe was a real rebel and outsider in his day. He raised a lot of hell during his life [...] and I wanted to try to recapture some of [those ideas] about him," says Christenson on the titular character.

"Poe's life was pretty riddled with tragedy: just about everyone he'd ever loved died or abandoned him, and as you read his life story, it gets to the point where it becomes almost comical because it's just so absurd how many bad things could happen to one person."

Nevermore follows in the footsteps of Catalyst's massively popular past production of *Frankenstein*. Besides remaining within the Gothic genre, Christenson says that they've learned a lot of lessons from *Frankenstein* and have been able to apply them to *Nevermore*.

Christenson has been a fan of Poe since Grade 7, so it's appropriate



that the two writers share similar sensibilities. Poe himself said that "all that we see or seem is but a dream within a dream," so it's not surprising that Christenson's goal with the piece echoes his subject.

**"Poe's life was pretty
riddled with tragedy:
just about everyone
he'd ever loved died or
abandoned him."**

JONATHAN CHRISTENSON
PLAYWRIGHT, NEVERMORE

"I like to suck people into an almost dream world and make it as much of a multi-sensory experience as possible. After you leave, my hope would be that the music and the images and the sound [will] reverberate inside of you, like when you have a really potent dream. While you're in the theatre, I just want people to have a really transported kind of experience."

Ideally, Christenson would probably like to see more people coming out to plays in Edmonton, perhaps yelling "That's so raven!" excitedly over his pseudo-Poe biography. But realistically, with such a small venue, audiences may have to fight for tickets — especially considering the success of the show in the past.

"It's interesting because the work that we create, our theatre here in town [...] it's just a small venue: 140 seats. When we're on the road, our shows are generally playing in anywhere from 500-to 1,200-seat houses [...] So, I actually direct the shows for a bigger venue and I like to see them in a big venue. But, you know, Edmonton audiences don't tend to get the opportunity to do that with our work," Christenson says disappointedly.

Fortunately for him, it's unlikely that Christenson will have to deal with loss on the same scale as Poe. The venues may be smaller, but the future of *Nevermore* looks far brighter than the life of the tortured writer it's based on.



albumreview

Dommin

Love is Gone
Label

WAYNE SIMON
Arts & Entertainment Writer

If Kristoffer Dommin wasn't the singer of Dommin, he'd do great as an impersonator. Image aside (i.e., his hilariously curly fringe), Dommin has masterful vocal chops. In "My Heart, Your Hands," he channels Tony Kakko from Sonata Arctica. In "Tonight," he comically imitates a Yugoslavian with a Finnish accent — though that last one might admittedly be because of lyrics like "I'm coming home with you / To fill the hole in you." Dommin be a playa.

Jokes aside, *Love is Gone* is a brilliant album. The aural soundscape consists of keyboards, vocals, and way-too-loud drums, with guitar and bass lines sitting low in the mix. The emphasis of keyboards is handled tastefully, without sounding like the new Duran Duran.

Interestingly enough, "Closure" comes halfway through the album (the last sung word is "Goodbye!") with six more songs to go. Obviously, Dommin is well-versed with break-

ups: everyone knows that "closure" is a fictional notion created by the corporate demons at Hallmark. So screw that — Dommin continues blazing with six more solid songs.

The title track is wonderful. A believable anguish permeates the throaty, forlorn roars, and Cameron Morris threatens to play the drums decently. Not content to stick to a single sound, Dommin also venture into a swinging tune ("Dark Holiday"), a beautiful power ballad ("Remember"), and the baffling and pointless instrumental fillers like "One Eye Open" (presumably to reach the total track number of 15).

Love is Gone doesn't break new ground, but it does dish out the best cure for a broken heart: infectiously gloomy goth-rock complete with chiming church bells. And raw bel-lowed vocals. Excuse me while I cut myself.

Sweeney Todd a bloody delight



SUPPLIED: EPIC PHOTOGRAPHY

theatrereview

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street

Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Book by Hugh Wheeler

Directed by Bob Baker

Starring Réjean Cournoyer, Jeremy Baumung, John Ulyatt, Andrew Stelmack, Nicole Robert, Roman Pfof, Douglas MacLeod, Jeff Irving, Kaylee Harwood, and Elizabeth Beeler

Runs February 6–March 7 (show-times vary)

Citadel Theatre (Maclab)
(9828 101A Ave.)

\$60–95 at citadeltheatre.com

KIRSTEN GORUK
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Grab a seat in the Maclab Theatre over the next month, and you might as well plop down onto one of Mrs. Lovett's benches and order yourself a fresh meat pie. You're at the perfect vantage point to become an accomplice in the bloody deeds of one Sweeney Todd.

The Citadel's production of *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, which officially opens tonight, is the ideal combination of musical numbers, a few laughs, and a hearty dose of murder.

Réjean Cournoyer's raspy and harsh vocals are perfectly suited for the role of Sweeney and truly bring his anguish to life, but it was Nicole Robert in her

portrayal of Mrs. Lovett that really tied the production together. Robert was able to tap into the somewhat questionable nature of her character, while still being able to win over the audience with her wit and impeccable voice.

Another stand-out performance was that of John Ulyatt as Beadle Bamford, the diabolical sidekick of Judge Turpin. Ulyatt's stage presence and unique style of movement ensured that audience members would not overlook the somewhat minor character.

A continual presence of cast members on stage — which included beggars scouring the streets and questionable men lurking in the shadows — introduced a unique voyeuristic aspect to the show. As they observed along with the rest of the audience, it's surprisingly easy to find yourself rooting for Sweeney. After all, despite his thirst for blood, one can't help but identify with his plight. Ultimately, we find ourselves resisting the urge to gasp with every throat the protagonist slits.

Despite the darker nature of the musical, the cast still managed to find the humour among the horror. Just as *Sweeney Todd* seeks the contradiction of vengeance and salvation, the mood of the production finds a reasonable balance between inducing an uproar of laughter and deadpan silence. A particularly memorable and enjoyable moment was Cournoyer and Robert's duet, "A Little Priest," which had the audience guiltily chuckling along with the pair.

While the first act carried on at a decent pace, slowly building to the climactic and criminal collaboration of Lovett and Todd, the second act really showcased the talent of the cast and the highlights of the show. Filled with anxiety and a heightened sense of desperation, the energy in the theatre grew with incredible intensity following intermission. The pounding beat of Sondheim's score left audience members emotionally drained by the time the final note was sung.

However, despite its infectious energy, there were moments where the continuity of the show was lost. The set, although easily transitioned, didn't conceal backstage staircases from every angle of the audience. Additionally, costume designer Mary Kerr was able to create some very extravagant and intricate outfits, but the choice to code everything in red, white, and black became a bit overwhelming and overly symbolic.

And while the majority of musical numbers were able to evoke the power and emotion of the production, certain ensemble numbers were difficult to follow and understand vocally.

Overall, the unorthodox musical is able to provide audiences with what they're really after: an entertaining three hours of escape from reality. At the heart of this show lies the thrill of experiencing something outside the regular scope of musicals, and really, of what we consider to be normal human nature.

emotions change from song to song, but they change within songs, too. "The Plan" is the best and most memorable track on the album. Featuring Scar, the two make a passionate duo. They sensitize every particle of the listener and make you respond whether you know it or not.

The Black Book is not a collection of songs of heartbreak by previous exes or angry yelling at the unjust world. It is, on the other hand, a collection of ideas that have the power to hurt, yet also have the power to build great things. The album acknowledges and welcomes the emotions that occur in all types of situations. However, it makes it clear that it is not the emotions in control, but the individual in control of the emotions.

song to song, keeping the listener engaged and attentive. Without asking for your permission, Black reaches out and captures our attention without screaming for it. Her style can only be described as graceful — she gets the maximum output with the least amount of force.

Not only does the subject and evoked



albumreview

Jully Black

The Black Book

Underground Explosion Entertainment

JANE VOLOBOEVA
Arts & Entertainment Writer

If someone's untamed spirit can be captured long enough to be recorded, Jully Black has done exactly that. *The Black Book* is a captivating R&B album that shows you instead of telling you what to see. Without pressuring an opinion onto the listener, Black's lyrics portray a spectrum of feelings.

The beat constantly changes from

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HOCKEY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12/
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13
Alberta vs. UBC
Clare Drake Arena, 7:30 p.m.



Canada West Standings

	G	W	L	OL	Pts.
Alberta	24	20	3	1	41
Manitoba	24	14	8	2	30
Saskatchewan	22	12	7	3	27
Calgary	24	10	9	5	25
Lethbridge	24	10	11	3	23
Regina	22	9	12	1	19
UBC	24	7	16	1	15



CIS Men's Hockey Top 10

	G	W	L	OL
1. UNB	26	26	0	0
2. Alberta	24	20	3	1
3. UQTR	26	21	3	2
4. Acadia	26	18	6	2
5. McGill	26	20	6	0
6. Western Ont.	26	19	7	0
7. Waterloo	26	19	6	1
8. Lakenhead	26	18	6	2
9. Manitoba	24	14	8	2
10. Saint Mary's	26	14	8	4

Hockey Bears wrap up regular season
home schedule against last-place UBC

EVAN DAUM
Sports Editor

With first place in the conference locked up, the hockey Bears hit the ice for the second-straight weekend at home, as the UBC Thunderbirds fly in from the west coast for a pair of games at Clare Drake Arena.

Coming off a weekend split against Lethbridge last weekend, the Green and Gold will be looking to polish their game in their final regular season home weekend against a UBC team that sits in the cellar of the Canada West standings.

"I think it's really important that we focus on ourselves, and we focus on our development and the aspect of us improving our game," Bears head coach Eric Thurston said.

The T-Birds, who have been eliminated from playoff contention, come into the weekend series riding a five-game losing skid. It's been another disappointing season in Vancouver for the T-Birds and their hard-hitting style of play.

"They always bring a physical aspect to the table, and I don't think that will change. I just hope that there aren't liberties taken in the sense that their players are trying to get out of the game by checking from behind, throwing an elbow, or starting a fight," Thurston explained.

While the T-Birds will be on the outside looking in come playoff time, Alberta has its sights set on a return trip to the national championship in Thunder Bay. Despite having first place already in their back pocket, the Bears still have some questions to answer as they enter the homestretch of their season.

Of the questions still surrounding the Green and Gold, none is bigger than who will step into the blue paint as the starting netminder, or if there will even be a bona fide starter decided on heading into the playoffs. So far both Real Cyr and rookie Travis Yonkman have split time in goal, and that in all likelihood won't change this weekend.

"I honestly don't know — I'm going to wait to play things out," Thurston said with regards to if a goaltending decision was imminent.

"I've been getting lots of input and lots of feedback, but I haven't made a decision yet and maybe no decision is the best decision, but I'm going to wait and see what plays out. This weekend will



PETE YEE

PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE The Bears were handed a loss last weekend against Lethbridge, but welcome the lowly Thunderbirds to town this weekend looking to get back to their winning ways.

give us another chance to evaluate things and to get as much information as I can."

It wouldn't be the first time that Alberta went into the postseason with two goaltenders sporting strong cases for becoming the go-to guy in net, as both B.J. Boxma and Dustin Schwartz went into the 2004/05 playoffs having seen substantial playing time, with Boxma eventually leading the Bears to the national championship over Saskatchewan at Rexall Place.

The weekend series against the T-Birds will also be the last regular season games for a number of Golden Bears including team captain Tyler Metcalfe, who has elevated his game as of late with his collegiate career nearing an end.

"Since Christmas time coming back, his play

has just been excellent. I also thought in Manitoba he was our best player in those nights, too. He's been working hard, doing all the right things," Thurston said of his captain.

"He's a really solid kid, having worked hard on his degree, being an academic All-Canadian. He's gone overseas with the Play Around the World program here at the U of A, and has just been a model of consistency, showing true professionalism being a student and an athlete."

Metcalfe and the rest of the Bears take to the ice both Friday and Saturday night in their final regular season home contests of the season, with puck drop slated for 7:30 p.m. at the Drake, with the action also available online at www.bears.ualberta.ca

Relay squads look to carry U of A swim team at nationals in Toronto

ROBERT FRIGON
Sports Writer

The U of A swimmers dive into Toronto one week from today for the CIS Championships at the University of Toronto. Alberta's squad will bring with it all 15 Bears and a possible 12 out of 13 Pandas. Both sides will display some explosive talent at the meet, especially when it comes to the relays.

Despite mixed results thus far this season, there have been some consistent bright spots in the pool for the Green and Gold, including former U of A Male Rookie Athlete of the Year Josh Au, who has qualified for more than six events, leaving head coach Bill Humby stumped as to which six events Au will register in.

"I'm having a hard time choosing which six to swim him in, and which of those four to swim him on race day; he could be a winner in anything," U of A swimming head coach Bill Humby explained.

With swimmers like captains Lauren Gillespie and Brian Yakiwchuk, the choices don't get any easier for Humby, who anticipates top-five finishes for both his Bears and Pandas teams.

The Bears will be relying heavily on Canada West All-Stars Robert MacKinnon, Scott Stewart, Brian Yakiwchuk, and Au, along with former medallists Lauren Gillespie and Kayla Voytechek



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

RELYING ON RELAYS Alberta will need strong results in the relays at nationals to crack the top five.

on the women's side.

"When you take those three [Gillespie, Voytechek, and Bobbie Mielnichuk] with Dana Armstrong or Tsue Anderson, and Kristen Flanagan on the relays, we have a chance to

medal in all three relays."

Humby believes both sides have the ability to make waves in the 4x200m relay, and take some major points away from their rivals.

"If everyone of our guys does what they are

supposed to do, we have 14 guys on strong relays. We should have a shot at being top five," Humby explained.

Edmonton-native Tsue Anderson will also be a strong competitor for the Green and Gold. After her performance at the Can West Finals where she placed mere tenths of a seconds from capturing Rookie of the Meet honours, she is poised to participate on multiple relays at the national championship.

A big performance is also expected from hometown girl Bobbie Mielnichuk, as she is now ready and rested after spending four days in the hospital prior to the Canada West meet.

"Bobbie has a chance to surprise a few people and move up the rankings, maybe even into the medals from anything from the 50m free to 400m free," Humby said.

While school pride will be at the forefront, the meet also provides the opportunity for swimmers to make their mark in the hope of securing a national team roster spot for future events.

"2012 is a little ways away, but last summer, we were pretty excited to have two kids make the World Student Games team," Humby said with regards to the 2012 Olympic Games.

The Alberta swimmers take to the pool for nationals February 18–20 in Toronto, looking to crack the top-five on both the men's and women's sides.



FILE PHOTO: AARON YEO

Green and Gold grapplers looking to turn heads at Canada West finals

ROBERT FRIGON
Sports Writer

The U of A's best will hit the mats in a little over a weeks time, when they travel to Calgary for the Canada West wrestling championships.

While the Bears' 10-man roster is yet to be finalized, the Pandas are all set to go with their eight-member roster. The team of 18 will compete in the two-day competition before setting their eyes on CIS Championship, which will also go in the Stampede City come March.

This year's Can West final will be a difficult task for the Green and Gold, as the top-four women's teams in the country — Calgary, Simon Fraser, Regina, and Saskatchewan — along with number-one ranked Simon Fraser Clan on the men's side, will all be in Calgary. Alberta head coach Owen Dawkins though is looking forward to the stiff competition.

"I'm excited to watch our guys — I've seen everyone else wrestle, and I want to see how our guys have progressed over the year and how their confidence has increased," Dawkins said.

"I'm more excited to see how our guys have become accustomed to the training

regime, and how they have adapted to what we have been planning."

In particular, four-time consecutive CIS champ and former U.S. Olympian Ali Bernard will be competing in the 82kg class. Bernard will be the heavy favourite to capture the title in the division, and will be looking to take a step towards making history as well, as she looks to cap off a tremendous collegiate career.

"I came in and asked our varsity athletes to do 100 per cent more than they were doing before"

OWEN DAWKINS
HEAD COACH U OF A WRESTLING

"She's going for her fifth CIS wrestling championship and that's never been done by any other woman," Dawkins pointed out.

In preparation for the event, Dawkins has pushed the team hard on and off the mats, and is preaching a much more thorough training regi-

men this time around.

"I came in and asked our varsity athletes to do 100 per cent more than they were doing before. It's tough, but I asked them to go from training once a day just on the wrestling mat, to twice a day, Monday to Friday, and once on Saturday," Dawkins explained.

"They've been asked to do a lot more, but I think they have rose to the occasion, and I think they're ready to go."

Just a mere nine months since coach Owen Dawkins joined the club, both the Bears and Pandas have seen great improvement. Though they're sitting fourth and fifth respectively in Canada West, Dawkins expects great things from his club.

"We are young; I mean, we had 19 freshmen on the team this year. That's unheard of. The growth is huge, the learning curve is very steep. My goal is to keep this group together. If you can keep a group together it's almost near impossible not to grow together and become a better team."

As the "little cousin" to many of the other clubs in Canada West, there will be growing pains for the young Alberta wrestlers, but expect up-and-comers like Jason Wass, Hayley Smith, and James Yurick to step up.

sportsshots

Compiled by Evan Daum

Bears Volleyball

With the regular season complete and first place guaranteed, the Bears volleyball squad heads to sunny Hawaii this weekend for a pair of non-conference games against the University of Hawaii while the rest of Canada West plays out the final regular season weekend.

Action gets underway in the Aloha state at 7 p.m. local time and 10 p.m. MST both Friday and Saturday night.

Pandas Volleyball

Like their male counterparts, the Pandas have wrapped up their regular season schedule, and await the final regular season weekend results to see where they will be headed for the first round of Canada West playoffs in just over a week's time.

Head coach Laurie Eisler's crew finished with a 12-8 record in the regular

season, and will take time to regroup during their bye-week after dropping their final five regular season games.

Despite the lacklustre finish to the regular season, the Pandas are guaranteed a berth at nationals as the host. That tournament is slated for March 5-7, with all the action going at the Main Gym. Tickets are now available through the Activity Registration Zone Sales Office in the lower level of the Van Vleet Centre, or by calling 492-BEAR (2327).

Rugby players to represent Canada

Three Pandas rugby stars will be suiting up for Team Canada at the upcoming 2010 FISU World University Rugby Sevens championship in Porto, Portugal from July 21-24.

Annika Ersson, Janine Martin, and Marlene Nedved will all be making the trip overseas to wear the Red and White. The three were chosen from 35 of the nation's top rugby stars at a selection camp in the nation's capital back in November.

Pandas hockey

The Pandas hockey squad, who have secured top spot in Canada West with two weeks remaining in the regular season, are off this weekend before concluding their regular season schedule next weekend in Manitoba against the second-place Bisons.

Alberta will open the playoffs at home in two weeks time for the Canada West semi-finals against either UBC or Regina.

Track and Field

The U of A tracksters head to Regina this weekend for the Queen City Meet at the University of Regina. The two-day event will go this Saturday and Sunday, and will be the Bears and Pandas first event since they travelled to Winnipeg this past weekend for the one-day Bison Track and Field Classic.

This weekend's meet will mark the Bears and Pandas final competition before the Canada West Championship, which the Green and Gold are hosting February 26-27 at the Pavilion.

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Netminder Szabados has taken path less travelled to Olympic Games

DANIEL LUU
InterCamp

EDMONTON (CUP) — Six months ago, a chapter closed for former Grant MacEwan Griffin Shannon Szabados, as she walked into the MacEwan Centre for Sports and Wellness office perhaps for the final time. The 5-8 net-minder strolled in with her MacEwan hockey gear, sporting a tribal Team Canada tattoo on her right ankle.

"I'm here to drop something off for my coach," Szabados said to the receptionist.

"For the women's hockey team?"

"Men's," she shrugged. She's used to it by now.

For the past two seasons, Szabados proudly wore number one on her Griffins jersey, becoming a top goalie in the ACAC men's hockey conference. Between the pipes, she helped backstop the Griffins to a silver medal in 2008 and recorded the most stops of any goaltender in 2009. But she hung up her Griffin jersey for a shot at Olympic gold with the Women's National Hockey Team.

It was a long time coming for Szabados. She first fell in love with the game of hockey after watching it on television when she was five years old. Her dad became her first coach,

teaching her the fundamentals and driving her to the rink. During the winter, he would freeze the swimming pool in their backyard and convert it into a mini-hockey rink.

At age seven, Szabados attended a hockey camp that shaped her hockey career — her first goalie mentor was Oilers' great Bill Ranford. It was when she was 15 as a midget under-age player that she really established herself as a young player to watch. She became the one of the top goalies in her league and participated in the prestigious Mac's AAA Tournament in Calgary, squaring off against future NHL superstars Sidney Crosby and Zach Parise.

"[Parise] didn't score on me," she grinned.

It didn't take long before everyone else took notice. The young goalie received scholarships to play on both the Princeton and Harvard women's team. Szabados also tried a short stint with the Tri-City Americans of the WHL, but realized she belonged back in Alberta, joining the Sherwood Park Crusaders of the AJHL.

"It's where I had to be at the time," she said. "I don't think I'd be the goalie I am today if I spent five years in the [WHL]."

Her homecoming wasn't easy, to

say the least. Like the WHL, the AJHL came under criticism for allowing a girl to play in a men's league. The media denounced this as nothing more than a publicity stunt. Many were worried whether Szabados could compete with the men or about her getting injured.

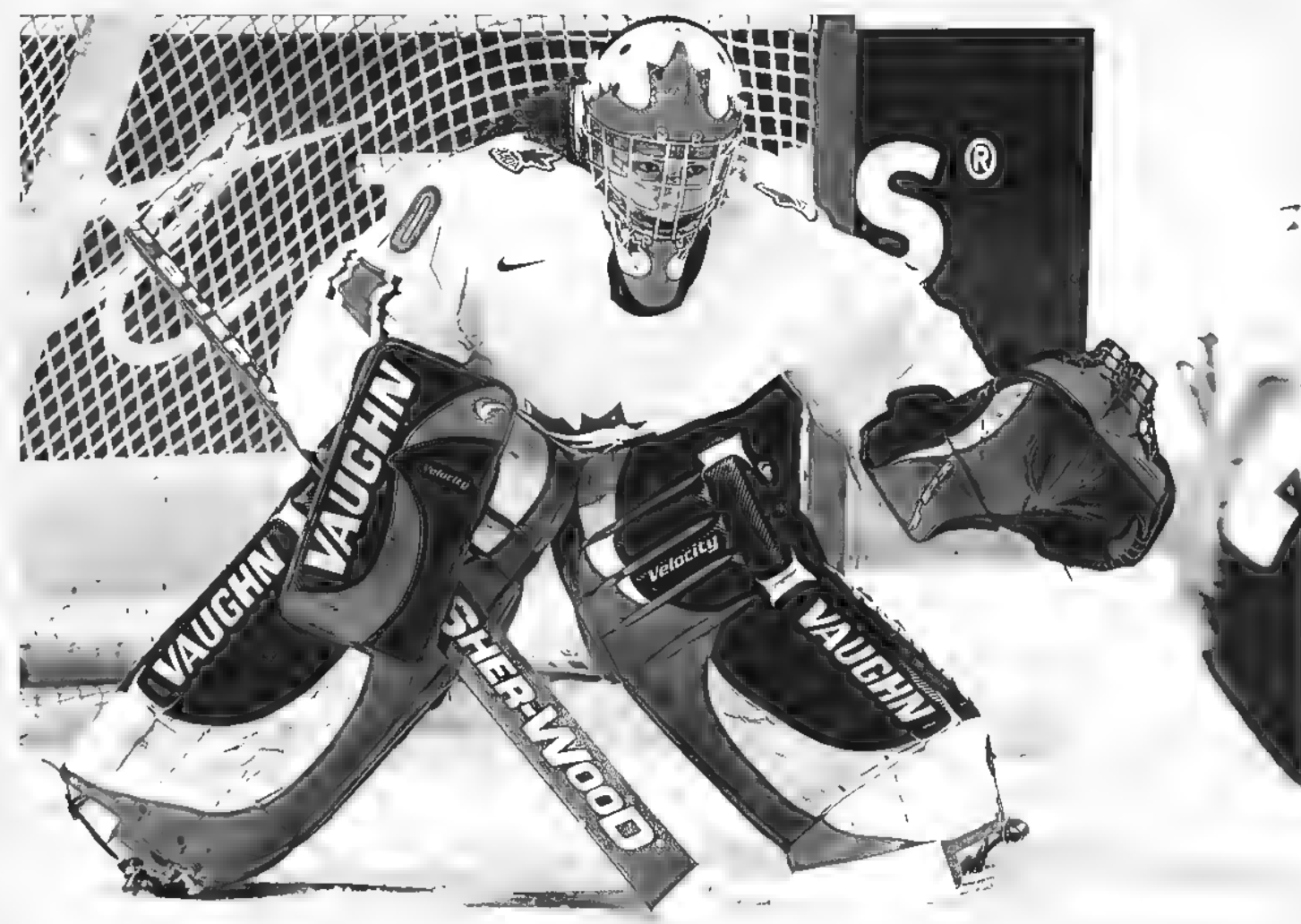
"I was driving to school, turned on the radio, and they were having this big conversation, having people calling in about whether I should be allowed to play in the league or not," Szabados recalled.

"They had this vote online: 51 per cent said 'no, I shouldn't be playing in the league' and 49 per cent said 'yes'. And it was still on after I finished writing my exam."

The criticism only gave Szabados more motivation to prove the odds makers wrong. She ended up playing in two AJHL All-Star Games, earned her team's MVP twice, and was named the league's top goalie.

Szabados only got her first taste of women's hockey when she joined the women's national team to play in the 2006 Four Nations Cup in Kitchener. In her first game, she made all 16 stops, beating the team's American rivals 3-0 on national television.

"I was so nervous," she recalled. "I was expecting to play one game



HOCKEY CANADA

SZABADOS SOARS Former Grant MacEwan Griffin Shannon Szabados is bound for the Olympics after taking a different path to the women's national team.

against a weaker team."

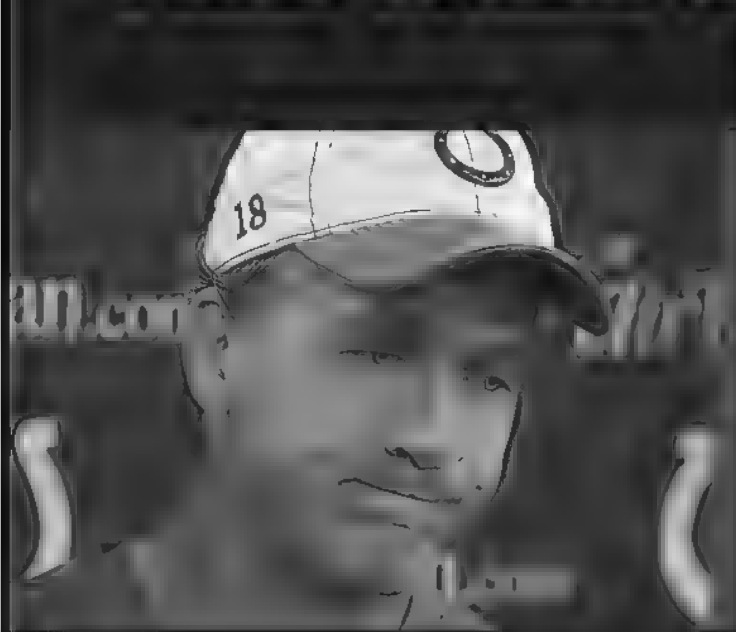
Despite all her accomplishments in hockey, Szabados is more eager to talk about her work outside the rink. She returned to her old hockey school where she first laced up her pads, teaching alongside friend and NHL star Cam Ward. But perhaps most memorable was a closed-door, three-on-three hockey tournament for charity that consisted of former Oilers greats. Szabados's team won

in the finals — besting her former mentor Ranford in the process.

Szabados is considering a new career playing pro or semi-pro hockey with the men like fellow Team Canada teammate Hayley Wickenheiser. But for now, the former Griffin-turned-Olympian just wants to live out her childhood dream of Olympic gold.

"I think any kid growing up playing hockey [has] that ultimate goal — to wear that maple leaf."

THIS WEEK'S SPORTS FLOP



While the party rages on in New Orleans after the Saints Super Bowl win, things are a little more mellow in Indy. A whopping 11 fans greeted the Colts at the airport upon their return from Miami. Eleven fans may seem small, but here at Gateway sports we'd love to have that many people out to a sports meeting. If you want to make that happen, come up to a meeting every Thursday at 4 p.m. on the third floor of SUB.

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Don't expect Canada to cakewalk through the Olympic tournament



BREN CARGILL

Sports Commentary

With the winter Olympics starting tomorrow, nationalistic zeal has hit fever pitch. From the torch relay across the country, to countless Olympic-oriented commercials, and that god-awful piece of propaganda called "Sid the Kid vs. Alex the Great" that's been playing on television for months, Canadians everywhere are stoked.

Hockey, on both the men's and women's sides, is something that Canadians get particularly excited for. As usual, expectations for those two teams are through the roof as a pair of hockey gold medals are not only expected, but demanded by the hockey-mad public in this country. Regrettably, there are more than just a few reasons why it's not going to be a walk in the park towards those two gold medals.

The women's team is the most likely of the two to win their respective tournament. Canada has claimed gold in the last two Olympics and boast the best player in the tournament — and maybe in the history of women's hockey — Hayley Wickenheiser. Couple that with the team's phenomenal depth, and home ice advantage, and it's clear why the Canadian women have a terrific shot at making it three in a row. While I do expect the Canadian women to finish first, it's not going to be very easy.

The competition level of women's

hockey internationally has gotten much better in recent years, especially with Finland and Sweden — who beat the U.S. to face off against Canada in the final in Turin — closing the gap. The biggest threat to the women's team always has been, and still is, the Americans. The Yanks did win the 2009 World Championship, but I believe that Canada is peaking now because of their depth, the leadership of Wickenheiser, and their recent dominance of our southern neighbours (six straight wins).

Whether or not the players in the Red and White can handle the greatest pressure they've ever felt during their careers will be a big indicator on the success of this team.

The men's hockey team is in a much tougher predicament. After the embarrassing seventh-place finish and quarterfinal loss to the Russians in 2006, changes were made. Wayne Gretzky was out, and Steve Yzerman was in as the team's general manager. Then, Sidney Crosby captained the Pittsburgh Penguins to the Stanley Cup last spring and the Canadian media ramped up his media coverage coast to coast. Along with having one of the deepest pools of star-calibre NHL players in the tournament, this has led people throughout Canada to once again adopt the Don Cherry attitude that it's Canada's inherent right to be

the game's best. Everyone has told you why Canada will win the men's gold medal, so naturally someone's going to have to tell you why there's a good chance they won't, and here are three reasons.

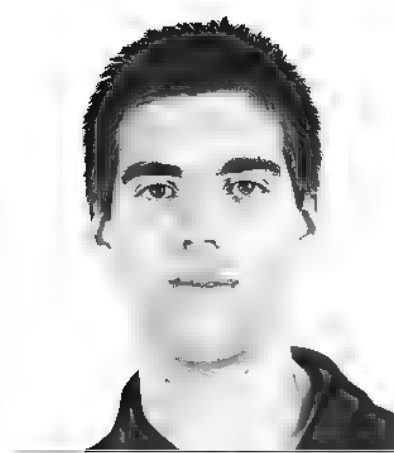
The first is goaltending. The Czechs showed in 1998 that having the best goalie going that year can almost single-handedly lead you to gold as Dominik Hasek did in Nagano. This is bad for Canada as the best goalie in the world today plays for the U.S. — his name is Ryan Miller. He has led the Buffalo Sabres to the top of the NHL's Northeast Division this season almost entirely of his own accord, and has shown he can steal games.

Secondly, the pressure to win on home soil for Team Canada will be at levels not felt since the 1972 Summit Series, and Canada didn't do so well in the home portion of that tournament. Whether or not the players in the Red and White can handle the greatest pressure they've ever felt during their careers will be a big indicator on the success of this team.

The third and biggest reason why the men's hockey team may be straight out of luck later this month is an old foe — Russia. Former Red Army superstar Slava Bykov has restored the lustre of playing for Russia once again for the younger generations, and after poor finishes the last two Olympics, the Russian Bear has never been hungrier for success. With the best player in the world (Alex Ovechkin), and the greatest collection of firepower put together this side of the '80s Oilers, the Russians should be the favourites to win it all.

We all better hope that Canada will at the very least be able to contain the Russians, because no one will be able to shut them down.

Argos' new ownership situation exposes serious problems with CFL football in T.O.



EVAN DAUM

Sports Commentary

There's something that just doesn't seem right with the CFL these days. With the Toronto Argonauts franchise in disarray (again), CFL super-fan and current owner of the B.C. Lions David Brayle has purchased the floundering Southern Ontario franchise from former owners David Cynamon and Howard Sokolowski. Now if red flags didn't immediately pop up in your head after reading that last sentence, they should have.

Without question, Brayle is among the most influential and productive people associated with the CFL. A successful businessman and former owner of the Hamilton Tiger Cats, Brayle has simultaneously become the owner of two CFL franchises, and in doing so, now owns exactly one-quarter of the league thanks to his recent acquisition of the Boatmen.

There's no question that Brayle has been among the league's very best ambassadors over the last several decades through his involvement with both individual franchises and the league itself — he stepped in and

served as interim commissioner for nine months back in 2002. But the idea of one individual owning two franchises within the same league at the same time, while trying to maintain the league's legitimacy, is ridiculous.

While I'm sure that Brayle of all people has the wherewithal to patch up the hole in the Argos stern and get that troubled franchise back on course, this situation presents a serious conflict of interest.

While we can all laugh at the fact that two teams were once called the Roughriders [...] the reality of one owner controlling two teams is something that poses a serious threat to the legitimacy of the league as a whole.

Imagine, if you will, that it's Grey Cup Sunday, and the B.C. Lions are taking on the Toronto Argonauts for Earl Grey's hallowed cup. David Brayle, owner of both squads, is wearing his B.C. Lions colours to support his team. No, wait, he's wearing the double blue of the Argos — well, regardless

of which colours he decides to sport, I guess he'll come out a winner. And in an eight-team league, this type of bizarre scenario isn't that far-fetched, and is a problem CFL commissioner Mark Cohon could face down the road thanks to the approval of Brayle as the new owner of the team.

While we can all laugh at the fact that two teams were once called the Roughriders (or Rough Riders, if you're still living in the glory days of Ottawa's last respectable CFL team) at the same time, the reality of one owner controlling two teams is something that poses a serious threat to the legitimacy of the league as a whole.

I'm sure that Brayle and commissioner Cohon — who is in desperate need for a viable owner to step in and save the league's biggest, but certainly not its best market — will argue that Brayle won't influence player personnel decisions or any of the football operations, so as to jeopardize the on-field product, but that simply doesn't matter.

The optics of this are horrendous. If the CFL wants to continue to grow its fan base, and potentially set itself up for expansion down the road, its pathetic to see that there wasn't at least one other prominent businessperson in this country who wanted to take on the Argos.

You know the situation is dire when a league has to turn to an owner of another team to step up and take on another franchise.

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CHASING GLORY

With tomorrow night's opening ceremonies set to commence the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, it's time for the *Gateway* to get you prepared for what is bound to be 17 memorable days. Here's a look at what to expect from the Red and White category by category as they go head-to-head against the world's best.

HOCKEY

Canadian medals in Turin: 1 Women's hockey team (gold)

Men's - Finals date: Feb. 28

Women's - Finals date: Feb. 25

Without question for Canadians, the Games' premier event will be hockey. With fans from coast to coast expecting to see a return to the double-gold performance they witnessed in Salt Lake City back in 2002, expectations are sky-high for both the men and women. The women didn't disappoint in Turin, securing gold; the men sure did, however, bowing out in the quarterfinals. NHLers will once again be plying their trade under the Olympic rings, as they assemble for a true test of each nation's elite.

CURLING

Canadian medals in Turin: 2 Brad Gushue's rink (gold); Shannon Kleibrink's rink (bronze)

Men's - Finals date: Feb. 27

Women's - Finals date: Feb. 26

Led by a pair of Alberta rinks, Kevin Martin (playing out of the Saville Sports Centre right here in Edmonton) and Cheryl Bernard of Calgary, the expectations for Canada's curlers are high. Martin is an Olympic silver medalist from Salt Lake City, and will be

looking to guide his team to the one championship he has yet to win in his career — an Olympic gold medal. Making her debut on the world stage, Bernard's team will be looking to reclaim gold for Canada, after fellow Calgarian Shannon Kleibrink's rink captured a bronze in Turin back in '06.



SKIING

Canadian medalists in Turin: 3 Chandra Crawford, cross-country sprint (gold); Renner/Scott, cross-country team sprint (silver); Jennifer Heil, freestyle moguls (gold)

Men's:

Alpine finals dates: Downhill: Feb. 13, Super Combined: Feb. 16, Super-G: Feb. 19, Giant Slalom: Feb. 21, Slalom: Feb. 27

Biathlon finals dates: 10 km sprint: Feb. 14, 12.5 km Pursuit: Feb. 16, 20 km: Feb. 18, 15 km Mass Start: Feb. 21, 4x7.5 km Relay: Feb. 26

Cross-country finals dates: 15 km Free: Feb. 15, Individual Sprint Classic: Feb. 17, 30 km Pursuit: Feb. 20, Team Sprint Free: Feb. 22, 4x10 km Relay: Feb. 24, 50 km Mass Start Classic: Feb. 28

Freestyle finals dates: Moguls: Feb. 14, Ski Cross: Feb. 21, Aerials: Feb. 25



Aerials: Feb. 25

Nordic Combined finals dates: Individual NH/ 10 km CC: Feb. 14, 4x5 km Relay: Feb. 23, Individual LH/10 km CC: Feb. 25

Ski Jumping finals dates: NH Individual: Feb. 13, LH Individual: Feb. 20, Team: Feb. 22

Despite a rash of injuries in the months leading up to the Games, Whistler-native Manuel Osborne-Paradis leads Canada's men's alpine ski team into the alpine events as the Red and White's biggest threat on the slopes. One of Canada's biggest medal threats on skis will be in the freestyle competitions, led by Montreal's Alexandre Bilodeau. Bilodeau won the World Cup Moguls and World Cup overall titles back in 2009, and along with Pierre-Alexandre Rousseau and Vincent Marquis, was a part of a Canadian sweep last year at a World Cup event — only the second time Canadians had swept the podium at a World Cup Event.

Women's:

Alpine finals dates: Downhill: Feb. 17, Super Combined: Feb. 14, Super-G: Feb. 20, Giant Slalom: Feb. 24,

Slalom: Feb. 26

Biathlon finals dates: 7.5 km sprint: Feb. 13, 10 km Pursuit: Feb. 16, 15 km: Feb. 18, 12.5 km Mass Start: Feb. 21, 4x6 km Relay: Feb. 23

Cross-country finals dates: 10 km Free: Feb. 15, Individual Sprint Classic: Feb. 17, 15 km Pursuit: Feb. 19, Team Sprint Free: Feb. 22, 4x5 km Relay: Feb. 25, 30 km Mass Start Classic: Feb. 27

Freestyle finals dates: Moguls: Feb. 13, Ski Cross: Feb. 23, Aerials: Feb. 24

Sara Renner and Beckie Scott will be back at it in Vancouver as major medal contenders in the cross-country team sprint event. Gold medalist Chandra Crawford will be competing at the Games as well, but is coming off injury troubles in 2008/09. Like the men, the women have a very deep pool of talent when it comes to freestyle. Defending moguls champion Jennifer Heil highlights the list of podium contenders, and could be the first Canadian to secure a gold medal in Vancouver. Ashleigh McIvor will also be looked to as a major contributor for the Canadians, as she is the reigning world champion in Ski-cross, which will make its Olympic debut in Vancouver.





Written by
Evan Daum



SNOWBOARDING

Canadian medalists in Turin: 1 — Dominique Maltais, snowboard-cross (bronze)

Men's finals dates: Cross - Feb. 15, Halfpipe - Feb. 17, Parallel Giant Slalom - Feb. 27

With two men in the top-10 of the World Cup snowboarding standings, Canada has a legitimate shot at securing a men's snowboard medal for the first time since Ross Rebagliati captured gold in the Giant Slalom at Nagano in 1998. Jasey-Jay Anderson leads the way in terms of World Cup experience and standing, as he sits fourth in the World Cup rankings, and will compete in both snowboard-cross and PGS. Joining him as a medal threat is Michael Lambert, who is ranked eighth on the World Cup circuit and will compete in the PGS event

SPEED SKATING

Canadian medalists in Turin: 12
Men's: Francois-Louis Tremblay, 500m short track (silver); Bedard/Guilmette/Hamelin/Tremblay/Turcotte, 5000m short track relay (silver); Dankers/Elm/Morrison/Parker/Warsylewicz, Team Pursuit (silver)
Women's: Anouk Leblanc-Boucher, 500m short track (bronze); Kraus/Leblanc-Boucher/Overland/Roberge/Vicent, 3000m short track relay (silver); Cindy Klassen, 1000m (silver), 1500m (gold), 3000m (bronze), 5000m (bronze); Kristina Groves, 1500m (silver); Clara Hughes, 5000m (gold); Groves/Hughes/Klassen/Nesbitt/Rempel, Team Pursuit (silver)

Men's:
Short Track finals dates: 1500m - Feb. 13, 1000m - Feb. 20, 500m - Feb. 26, 5000m Relay - Feb. 26
Speedskating: 5000m - Feb. 13, 500m - Feb. 15, 1000m - Feb. 17, 1500m - Feb. 20, 10000m - Feb. 23, Team Pursuit - Feb. 27

If Canada has any shot at owning the podium, they'll need to take care of business in both short- and long-track speed skating. The Canadian relay teams will once again be strong, as they'll be competing for medals in both long-

Women's finals dates: Cross - Feb. 16, Halfpipe - Feb. 18, Parallel Giant Slalom - Feb. 26

The women also boast a pair of World Cup top-10 athletes, in the form of defending snowboard-cross bronze-medalist Dominique Maltais, and Maëlle Ricker. Maltais sits sixth in the world, and will be competing once again in the cross event, looking to improve on her third-place finish in Turin. Ricker comes into Vancouver as the top-ranked female snowboarder, and will be looking to reach the podium for the first time at the Olympics. She finished fourth in Turin in the cross event, and is a two-time Winter X-Games champion in the event.

and short-track. Jeremy Wotherspoon, who was dubbed a gold medal shoe-in at the last two Olympics, will be out for redemption in his final Olympic Games, as he looks to add to the silver medal he won at the 1998 Nagano Olympics.

Women's:
Short Track finals dates: 500m - Feb. 17, 1500m - Feb. 20, 3000m Relay - Feb. 24, 1000m - Feb. 26
Speed Skating: 3000m - Feb. 14, 500m - Feb. 16, 1000m - Feb. 18, 1500m - Feb. 21, 5000m - Feb. 24, Team Pursuit - Feb. 27

Canada's chances at winning the overall medal race could come down to how the women fair on the speed-skating ice. Both the short- and long-track skaters on the women's side in Turin performed at a remarkable level, highlighted by Cindy Klassen's five-medal performance. Klassen has struggled with knee injuries in recent years, but still is serious medal threat. Canadian opening ceremonies flag-bearer Clara Hughes will be looking to defend her 5000m gold on home soil.



Images from Wikimedia Commons and Stock.xchng

SLIDING

Canadian medalists in Turin: 4—Men's - Brown/Lueders, two-man bobsleigh (silver); Duff Gibson, skeleton (gold); Jeff Pain, skeleton (silver)
Women's - Melissa Hollingsworth, skeleton (bronze)

Men's:
Bobsleigh finals dates: Two-man - Feb. 21, Four-man - Feb. 27
Skeleton finals date: Feb. 19
Luge finals date: Singles - Feb. 14, Doubles - Feb. 17

Canada's men's sliders are highlighted by another deep field of bobsledders, including Canada's most decorated bobsleigh pilot Pierre Lueders. Along with Lueders, there are several Edmonton ties this year for the Canadian bobsleigh contingent. Edmonton Eskimos running back Jesse Lumsden, who has competed with Lueders in two-man, made the team after taking up the sport less than a year ago, while former U of A track star Neville Wright will also be on Canada's bobsleigh squad.

Women's:
Bobsleigh finals date: Two-woman - Feb. 24, Skeleton finals date: Feb. 19, Luge finals date: Feb. 16

Melissa Hollingsworth will head to the Games as the odds-on favourite to claim skeleton gold. After finishing third in Turin, Hollingsworth has been dominant this season on the World Cup circuit, and is the top-ranked athlete in the sport heading into Vancouver, boasting 21 career World Cup podium finishes. Alex Gough is Canada's best medal threat in luge on the women's side, finishing fourth at last year's world championships, and comes into the Games ranked seventh in the world.

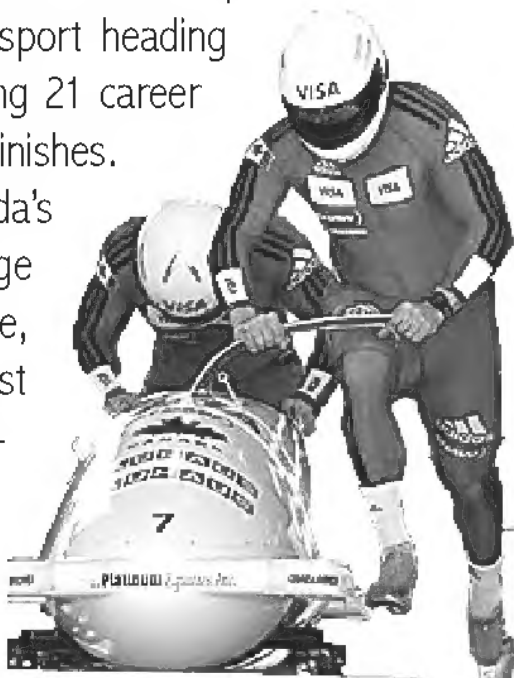


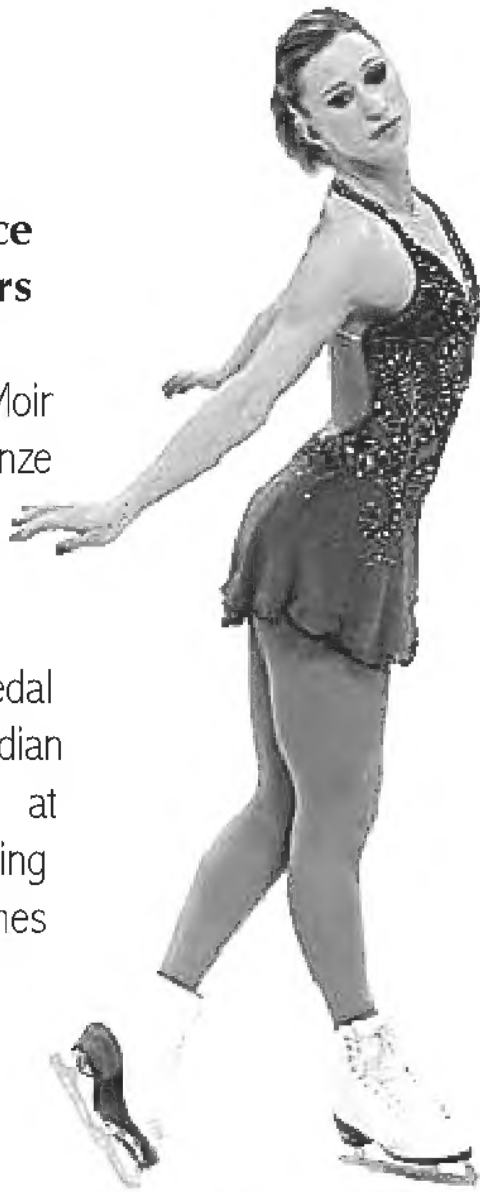
FIGURE SKATING

Canadian medalists in Turin: 1 — Jeffrey Buttle, free skating (bronze)

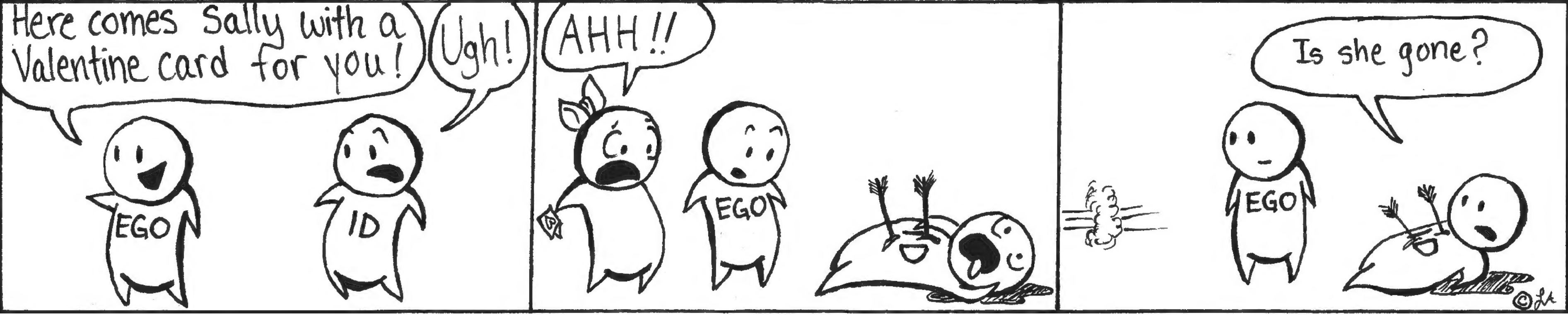
Men's finals date - Feb. 18
Patrick Chan is Canada's best medal threat in the men's free skate competition, as a top-10 ranked athlete in that category on the World Cup circuit.

Women's finals date - Feb. 25
For six years running, Joannie Rochette has been Canada's national champion on the women's side, and she'll head into Vancouver as Canada's best medal threat in the women's singles event. Rochette will be looking to improve on her fifth-place finish in Turin.

Pairs finals dates: Ice Dance - Feb. 22, Pairs Free Skating - Feb.15
Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir are the reigning World bronze medallists, and along with Chan and Rochette, are one of Canada's best hopes to bring home a medal in figure skating. Canadian figure skaters have won at least a medal in figure skating dating back to the 1984 Games in Sarajevo.



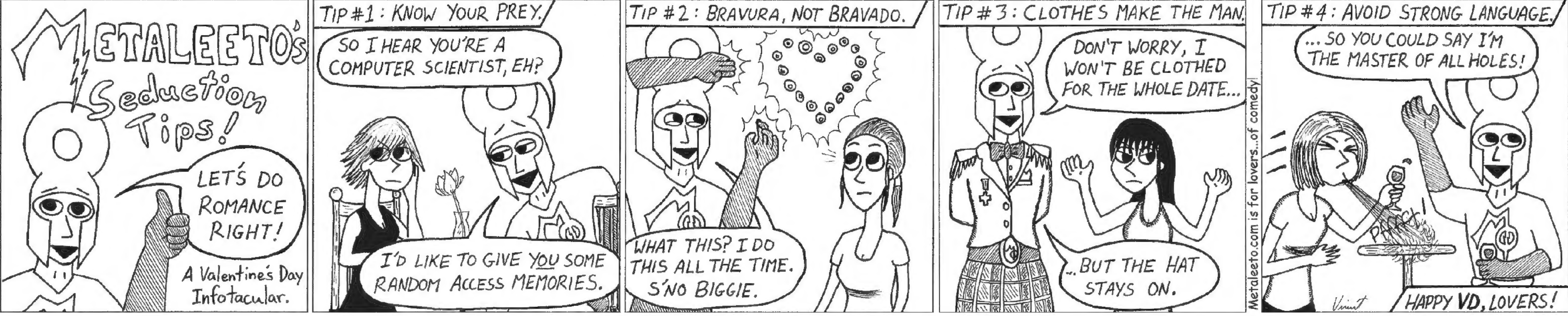
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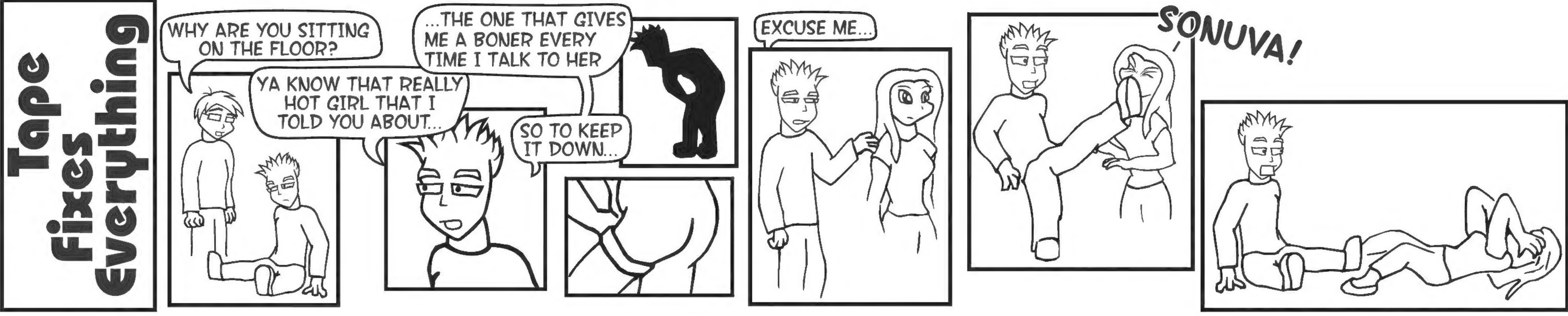
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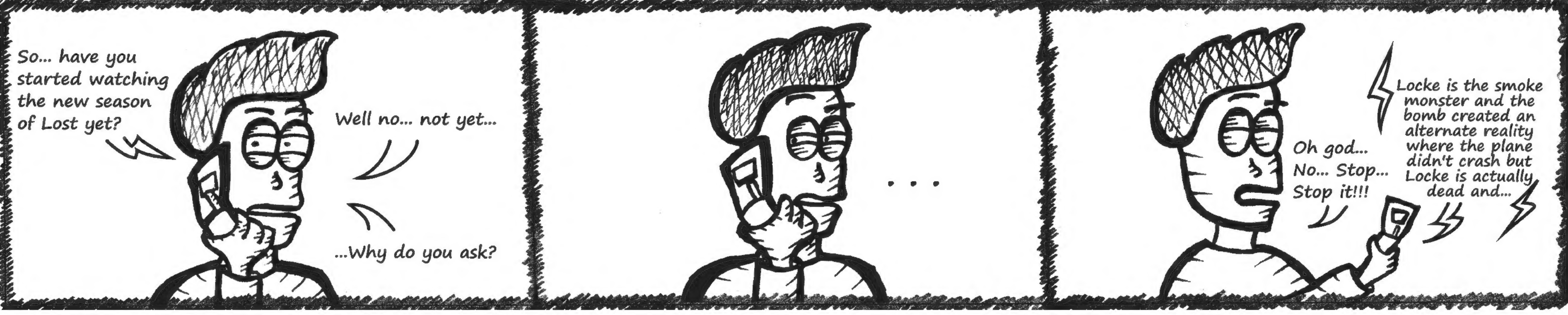
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AWESOME THEORY by Benjamin Nay



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MINOR ISSUES

I need more opportunities to play "Sex Bomb".



astronowatch

by Kati Kovacs

The space shuttle *Endeavor* had a successful launch on Monday morning from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. This launch was the last scheduled night launch in NASA's shuttle program. *Endeavor* docked with the International Space Station at around midnight on Wednesday morning. The two crews have begun their work to attach the last module to the I.S.S., as well as dock a new observation

room to it. Godspeed!

For anyone keeping count, there are now only four more shuttle launches remaining until NASA shuts the shuttle program down.

President Barack Obama last week proposed a new outlook on space exploration with a redesign of the American space program. The new budget cancels the Constellation program, which was meant to be the successor to the current shuttle program. Obama is looking instead to invest over \$6 billion in the growing

commercial space industry. Let's hope this decision is a turning point for the stagnant industry of space tourism. With any luck we could be jaunting into orbit for vacation sooner than I'd hope.

AstronoWatch is a weekly feature that covers the goings-on in the night skies, the galaxy, and sometimes even Kati's personal life. Keep up with *Astronowatch* online at thegatewayonline.ca/astronowatch or check out the *FABservatory's* site at www.phys.ualberta.ca/observatory



AARON YEO

FLYING VINYL DJs competed at Red Bull Thre3Style contest at OCR Saturday.

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